

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

ALASKA RARE COINS, P.O. BOX 72832, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707 Phone 907 452-6461 email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

**& POLAR NUMISMATIST**

**VOLUME XL, NO. 1, JANUARY, 2018.**



See page 6

## TOKENS OF THE CHISANA GOLD RUSH

by Jacques Etcheverry

Having never been one to collect anything (other than wild game for the freezer), the purchase of a token off eBay was in fact a shock to myself and began my token collection. That first token was a Bank Coffee House aluminum 50 cent piece and over the past few years I've been constantly searching to acquire a full set of tokens from the Chisana area.



I have been visiting Chisana (pronounced Shoo-shaan-ah) since I was a child. Luckily for me my uncle, who has been exploring, prospecting and hunting in Chisana since the late 1960s, loves to share this place with family and friends. My grandparents bought property in Chisana after their first visit; built a home and lived there full time for over 30 years. I also own property and am currently building a cabin of my own.

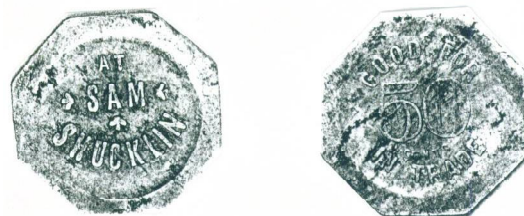
Over the years I've heard many great stories about the "old days" in the Chisana area. They always involved tough, adventurous people braving the elements to chase their dreams, be it dreams of gold, fur, or in the case of my grandparents, retirement. A couple important names on the list of past Chisana residents are Ivan Thorall, who mined in the area and established a homestead, and Susan Butcher, who worked in the area for a hunting guide prior to her championship mushing days.

The mystery behind the tokens sparked my interest and had me digging deeper into the history of the area. Chisana was the center of the last great gold rush in Alaska. Not long after gold was discovered in the hills east of town in 1913, Chisana was known as the largest log cabin town in the world.

Thousands of miners flocked to the area hoping to strike it rich. General stores were quickly built along with saloons, diners and brothels to support the prospectors. The first store was built by Sam Shucklin. The rush was short lived, only lasting a couple years, but evidence of the bustling past of Chisana can still be seen if you look close enough.

Shucklin's store and outbuildings have been bought and sold throughout the years until it was acquired by my uncle Eric Larson who still enjoys it to this day. The cabin, now known as "the big house," is the location of many fond memories for me and it is so fascinating to think back to when the tokens may have been used as currency in this very same building. See the photos on page 3.

Mr. Shucklin did have a token in use (50 Cents, aluminum, octagonal 29mm) but it has not been confirmed if it had been used in the Chisana general store as he worked in other cities including Fairbanks, Anchorage, Seattle and Dawson.



Other historic proprietors that had businesses in this same cabin after Shucklin and also had tokens are Charles Simons and Lou Anderton. Before Simons was in Chisana, he was in Chitina.



continued on page 3

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month special thanks go to Jacques Etcheverry for his article on Chisana. This is a great way to start off our 40th year.

Thanks also again to David Phillips for his **MONEY TO BURN**. He looks at the HooDoo Brewery woods this month. David has been a consistent contributor to this newsletter, and I cannot stress how important that has been.

We found a few items from Jim Robb that slipped under a pile of papers that we thought would make interesting space fillers. See page 6.

There were a couple of neat Chitina tokens on eBay this month. The Overland Hotel brought a respectable \$401. I think the Tom Smith token was a bargain at \$255, even with the corrosion. The Portland from Nenana is a tough token, and the \$735 price realized attests to that fact.

Because the Post Office has made it such a pain to not use an envelope, we will now be using an envelope to mail this newsletter. I am sure no one will complain. We can mail 5 sheets of paper in an envelope for 1 oz. of postage. Since we no longer have to leave the last page blank for a mailing address, it is our plan to have 10 pages per newsletter.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist**, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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1 page - \$50    1/2 page - \$30    1/4 page - \$20  
1/8 page (business card size) - \$20 for 5 issues.

Classified ads: \$1 per line.

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

**Anchorage**, D&D Bar, set of 3, B-14, a,b,d 15.00OB



**(Anchorage)**, Idle Hour Cigar, 5¢, B-23a 260.00

**Chitina**, Overland Hotel, 6¼¢, B-5a 401.00



**Chitina**, Tom Smith, 12½¢, B-7a 255.00

**Circle**, Eagle Saloon, 1 Drink, B-3a 331.00

**Cleary**, Willis & Welch, 25¢, B-5a 116.11

**Cordova**, Southern Club, 6¼¢, B-36a 40.00OB

**Juneau**, Juneau Drug, 5¢, B-35a OB300.00NB

**Ketchikan**, Pastime Cigar, set of 3, B-40 a-c 15.00OB

**Kobuk**, Harry Brown, set of 3, B-1 a-c 20.00OB

**Long**, Willis Bingle Long, 25¢, B-2a 68.50

**(McGrath)**, Gus Gullikson, 25¢, B-1a 207.50



**Nenana**, The Portland, \$1, B-6a 735.00

**Nenana**, Smoke House, 12½¢, B-7a 69.00OB

**(Nome)**, B&M, 25¢, B-5b OB250.00NB

**Nome**, Imperial Cigar Store, no denom. B-28a 169.19

**(Nome)**, P.H. Harkin, 25¢, B-24a 26.00

**(Nome)**, Malloy, 25¢, B-33a OB95.00NB

**Nome**, Polet Stores, set of 4, B-41 b,d,f,i 51.01

**Palmer**, ARRC, \$5, B-1g 144.50

**Quinhagak**, Pauline Jean, \$5, B-1d 50.01

**Skagway**, BPOE Elks, no denom., B-2a 26.00

**Skagway**, Board of Trade, 12½¢, B-4d 127.50

**Skagway**, Shamrock Beer Parlor, 12½¢, B-24a 57.98

**A.Y.P.E.**, encased cent, round 23.84

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.



## ***TOKENS OF THE CHISANA GOLD RUSH, CONT.***

Charles (C.A.) Simons was a merchant, post master, and prospected in Chisana from 1917 to 1929. His grave site can still be seen in Chisana today if one walks “Simons’ Trail” that leads to the gold country north east of town.

Lou Anderton was a merchant and big game guide in Chisana for several decades. He issued tokens for use from 1937 to 1938. The obverse dies for Anderton’s tokens still exist.

Also in town, though not located in the original general store building, was the Bank Coffee House that operated from 1913 to 1920.

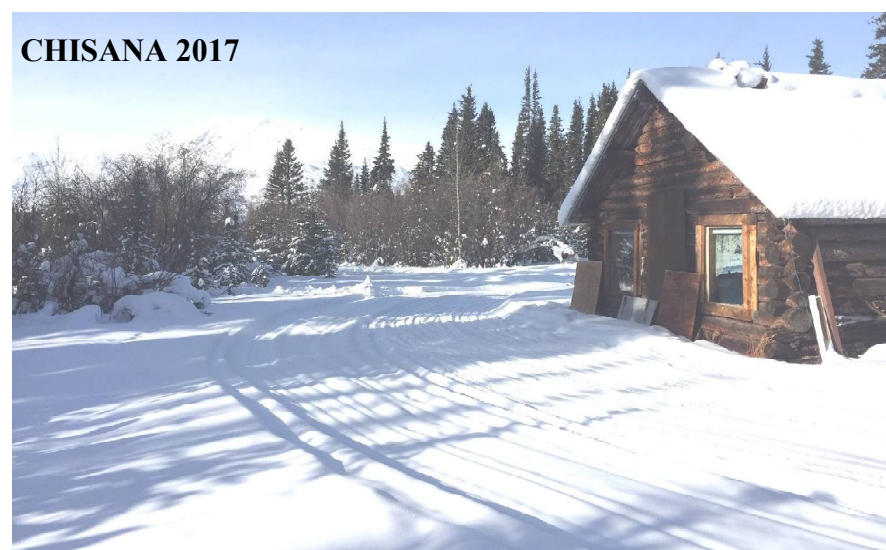
“The Bank Coffee House was located on the right limit of Johnson Creek (Chathenda on the maps) in the gold rush settlement of Chisana, also called Shushanna by the Indians, meaning sandy water.

The Bank Coffee House was taken by a flood, sometimes in the early 1920s, I think. The only remains that I know of is a door that now serves as the kitchen entrance to the “Big House” which was the post office until 1936.” - Ivan Thorall, ATC&PN, August, 2001.

If you are familiar with the location of Chisana, you will know that in the late 1970s it became part of the largest national park in the United States, Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This change in land designation dramatically affected land use forever in the area.

Still even today with all the restrictions by the Park Service, the area is a remarkable place to visit. I am in the process of making new memories and adding to the rich history of this place by visiting several times each year with my wife and young son. I’ve also found the tradition of introducing new people to the area quite rewarding; I brought our 7 year old niece this summer to work on my cabin and hike around the area.

As for my collection, it’s still not complete. I’m on the hunt for a Bank Coffee House 25 Cents and a Simons \$5 brass if anyone has one for sale. I never thought I’d be a token collector but now I can’t deny that I enjoy the hobby and the way it has inspired me to learn more about a place that is dear to my heart.



continued on page 4

# TOKENS OF THE CHISANA GOLD RUSH, *CONT.*

## LOU ANDERTON, 1937-1938



B-1a: 25¢ in trade, aluminum, round, 24mm



B-1b: 50¢ in trade, aluminum, round, 31mm



B-1c: \$1 in trade, aluminum, round, 38mm



B-1d: \$5 in trade, brass, 31mm



25¢ die

50¢ / \$5 die

\$1.00 die

## BANK COFFEE HOUSE, c. 1913-1920

B-2a: 25¢, aluminum, round, 24mm



B-2b: 50¢, aluminum, round, 30mm

## C.A. SIMONS, 1917-1929



B-3a: \$1.00 in trade, aluminum, round, 37mm



B-3b: \$5.00 in trade, aluminum, round, 30mm

B-3c: \$5.00 in trade, brass, round, 30mm

**Editor's Note:** We acquired these dies, along with others from Dale Noll, a California collector about 1984/1985. We sold them to a local collector, and reacquired them in the last few years. At least the 25¢ obverse die was use to make fantasy restrikes before we acquired them the first time. See page 5.

## References:

Benice, Ronald J. *Alaska and Yukon Tokens: Private Coins of the Territories*, 3rd edition, McFarland, 2009.



## MORE ON THE CHISANA RESTRIKES

In the June, 1991 issue of *Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist*, I did an article on “Mint Sports.” These are “tokens” that were struck using the wrong die pairings, made to deceive. However, in this case, either that was not the purpose, or they were so badly done that anyone knowledgeable about Alaska tokens would not be deceived.

I purchased several dies in 1984/1985. From the article, it appears that I still possessed the Chisana 25¢ obverse die in 1991.

It is interesting to note that the maker of these “mint sports” did not have the right size disc cutter, but did have access to octagonal and scalloped planchets.

So, what have I made with these dies?



First off are uniface ¼ oz. .999 fine silver tokens. These were struck against a polished blank die the size of the planchet - larger than the Anderton die. These are irregular in shape, the centering varies from piece to piece and there may be some slight weakness of strike. These are **\$12 each, postpaid.**

Also, I have one ounce, .999 fine silver “\$1” tokens. This token uses the reverse die from the \$1 Burford’s Corner, Juneau, token (B-12d). This die has some corrosion between the T and R of Trade

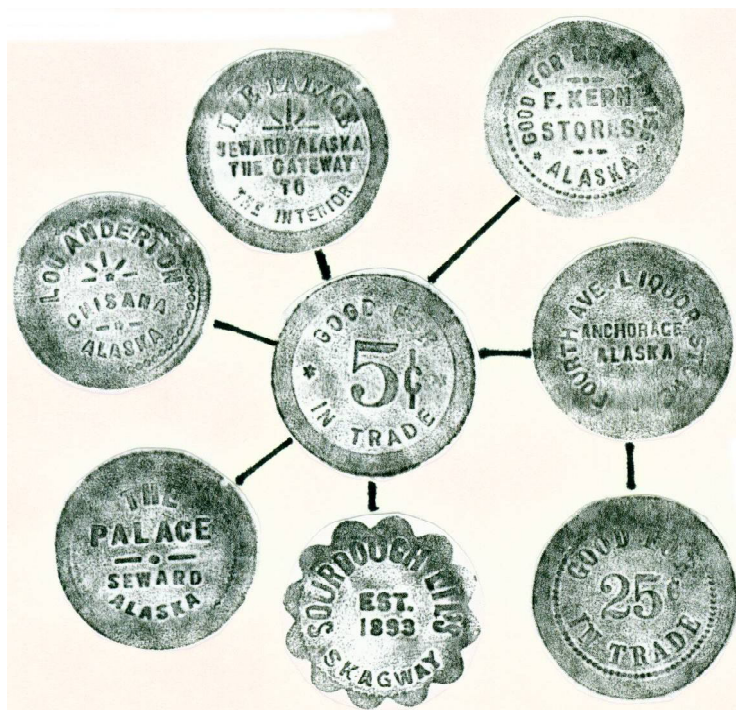


that shows up on every token. Since the blanks and the dies were the same size, centering is very good on these. There may be some weakness of strike, but overall, they are very nice. These are **\$45 each, postpaid.**

Both tokens are pressed using the screw press. Both required multiple pressings.

I also have the 50¢ obverse die, but did not strike any examples using that die.

These dies and others are known to exist and are noted in *Alaska and Yukon Tokens* by Ron Benice.



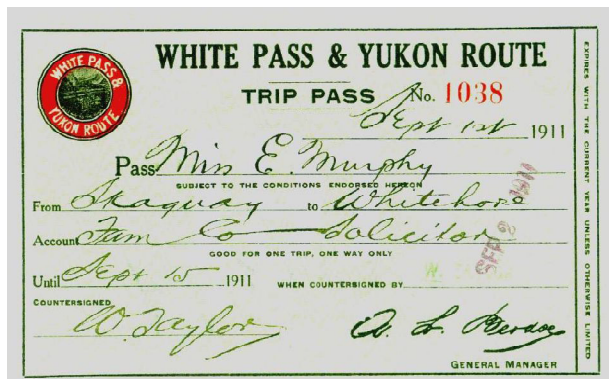
There are several token dies paired with a 5¢ reverse. These rubbings show something interesting. In this grouping, all of the planchets appear to be oversized, the tokens showing a very broad rim.

Jump ahead to 2017. I have re-acquired the Chisana dies, and decided to “play” with them. When I tried to make a blank for the Chisana 25¢ and 50¢ dies, I did not have a disc cutter the correct size. And I have 3 sets of disc cutters, all with cutters larger and smaller than the required size.

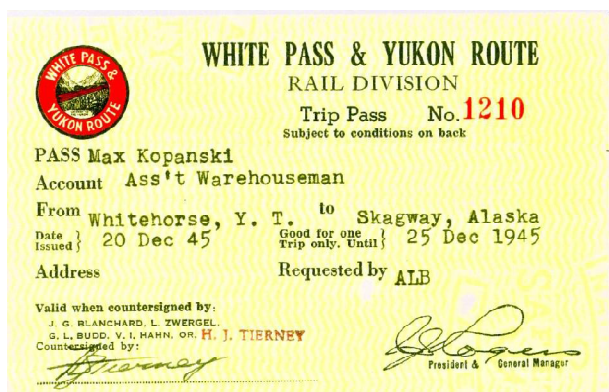
What does this tell me? It tells me that the last person to use these dies, and make the “mint sports” also did not have a disc cutter the correct size. As a matter of fact, it was the same size that I used to make the blanks for the 25¢ die!



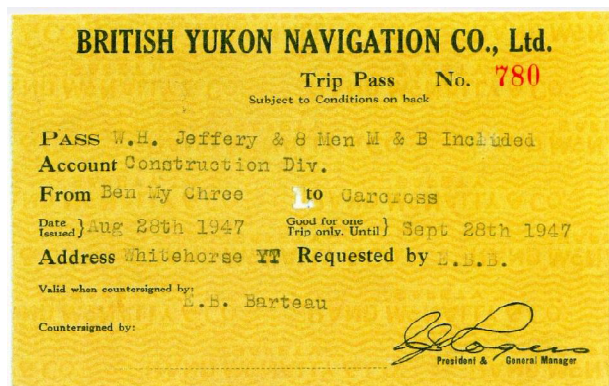
## JIM ROBB'S PAPER POTPOURRI



**WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE:** Trip Pass, Skagway to Whitehorse for 1911. White paper with wavy green underprint, void in the underprint for the date 1911, 125mm by 78mm.



**WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE:** Trip Pass, Rail Division, Whitehorse to Skagway, 1945. Pale yellow paper, 125mm by 81mm.



**BRITISH YUKON NAVIGATION CO. LTD.,** Trip Pass, Ben My Chree to Carcross. Tan paper with wavy underprint with printer name, 125mm by 80mm.

Shown reduced size. First two are rail passes, the last is for lake travel. Ben My Chree is on the south-west end of Taku Arm of Tagish Lake, B.C.

## FAIRBANKS COIN CLUB 2018 TOKEN



I have made a 1/10 oz. silver token for the Fairbanks Coin Club again this year. These are pressed using my screw press.

This is the 9th token I have made for the FCC, and I have made them every year since 2012.

The obverse is the 2017 die, with 2018 added to the center. The lettering was repunched, and the only mistake was the very last letter I was repunching!

The reverse die has the legend "Sol Lucet Nocte." Loosely translated, it means "the sun illuminates the night," thus, the midnight sun.

The members get one when they pay their dues.

These are available to non-members for \$5 plus self addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

## DAVE THE MONEYER



I have a few of Dave's pewter Richard I tokens available for \$3 each plus SASE. This may be combined with the FCC 2018 token in one SASE.



# MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips

## HooDoo Brewery wood

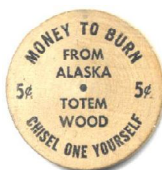
Two woods have recently come my way from the Hoodoo Brewery Co. of Fairbanks, Alaska.

A word or two firstly about the vigorous and innovative HooDoo Brewery. The Company commenced operations in 2012, under the leadership of its owner, Bobby Wilkins, and since then has introduced, and/or sponsored a number of interesting events, plus also running a successful brewing and taproom operations. It is strongly suggested that readers Google the HooDoo Brewery for more information.

Now, to the woods...



The first wood was created and made available in July of 2016. 2,000 were made and are available for purchase in the taproom of the Brewery. The wood is exchangeable for one pint of beer. The design incorporates the small mountain with the words “Craft Beer” above HooDoo Brewing Co., Fairbanks, Alaska. The reverse has a beer truck with their logo, and “Have one on us. Prost!” It is 1½ inches (38mm) in size. The printing is black/black.

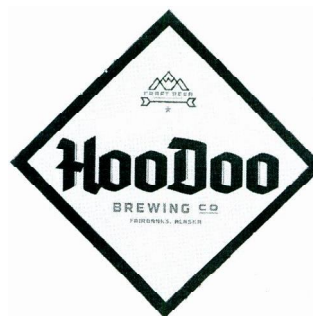


The Company issued the second wood in September, 2017, for its co-sponsorship of a half Marathon race. A wood was given to each participant taking part in the half Marathon.

The obverse has the legend “Train. Race. Beer. Hoodoo Half Marathon, Fairbanks, Alaska.” The reverse has a map of Alaska with a star for Fairbanks, and the legend “Local-Fresh-Beer, Have one on us, Prost!”

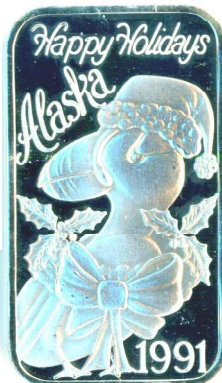
Again, the wood is exchangeable for a pint of the Company’s beer. 1,500 of these were made in the standard 1½ inch size. The printing is red/red.

My sincere thanks to Heather Kramer, Taproom Manager, and Bobby Wilken, Owner, for providing the two woods and the information relative to them.





## ALASKA MEDALS - Prices are postpaid.

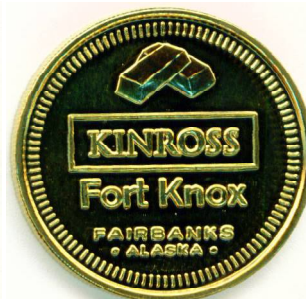


**FAIRBANKS:** El Sombrero Restaurant, one ounce silver, light scuffing. Quite scarce. **\$28.00**

**(ANCHORAGE):** Happy Holidays, 1991. Before there was Alaska Mint, there was Michael's Jewelers. An early one ounce silver bar. **\$35.00**



**HOMER:** Homer Farmers' Market, \$20. Brass, 39mm. **\$20.00**



**FAIRBANKS:** Kinross Fort Knox, 20 years, 7 million ounces poured. Gold plated one ounce silver, not marked. Tests as silver by specific gravity and electronically. We don't get these very often. **\$45.00**

**Above and to the left are one only in stock.**



**ANCHORAGE:** Kiwanis Steam Locomotive, Moose Gooser, 1967 Purchase Centennial. Set of 3; two cupronickel and one brass. The two CN medals have the train going in opposite directions and have matching serial numbers. See page 19, April 2015 for more information on the Moose Gooser. We had this set on eBay for \$18. Without eBay and PayPal fees, and a special price for our subscribers - **\$12.00 per set.**



# ***ALASKA TOKENS FOR SALE*** - Prices are postpaid

## **CHISANA TOKENS**



Lou Anderton, set of 3: 25¢, 50¢ and \$1, B-1, a-c. (illustrated on page 4). **\$125.00**



Bank Coffee House, 50¢, B-2b. Offered on eBay for \$150. Without eBay and PayPal fees, you can buy this for... **\$125.00**

**Only one each in stock of Chisana tokens.**

## **ELMENDORF A.F.B.**



**Civilian Club**, set of 4; 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and \$1, B-1, a-c and f. **\$35.00**

## **EIELSON A.F.B. TOKENS**



**NCO CHEVRON CLUB**, 50¢, B-2a **\$10.00**



**NCO ROCKER CLUB**, 50¢, B-5a **\$15.00**



**NCO ROCKER CLUB**, 50¢, B-5bII **\$10.00**



**NCO CLUB** (speculative), set of 3; 5¢, 25¢ and 50¢. These tokens have been attributed to Eielson by local collectors for over 40 years. We recently purchased a local collection and there were three of these sets included. Set of 3: **\$15.00**

# ***ALASKA TOKENS FOR SALE*** - Prices are postpaid



**ALAKANUK:** Alstrom Trading Co.; 25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20. B-1 a-f. Regular price - \$80.  
Special price - **\$60.00**



**ANCHORAGE:** Bert's Liquor Store; 15¢ and 25¢, B-9 a and b. Regular price - \$22  
Special price - **\$15.00**



**BETHEL:** Olsen Bros; 25¢, 50¢ and \$1. B-3 a-c. Regular price - \$18 Special price - **\$15.00**



**BETHEL:** Oscar Sameulsen; 25¢, 50¢ and \$1. B-4 a-c. Regular price - \$25 Special price - **\$18.00**



**EEK:** Gil McIntyre; 25¢, 50¢ and \$1. B-1 a-c. Much better than usually found, no significant damage.  
**\$165.00**



**FAIRBANKS:** Pastime Cigar Store; 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢. B-44 a-c. Regular price - \$25  
Special price - **\$12.00**



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& POLAR NUMISMATIST

VOLUME XL, NO. 2, FEBRUARY, 2018.



See page 16

## TILLIKUM CLUB - TENAKEE

AN EXTRAORDINARY ERROR TOKEN

by Ron Benice



(Alaska State Library Photo Collection P01-4052)



B-5a



B-5b



*"Don't write naughty words on walls if you can't spell."* Tom Lehrer

**Tillicum:** friend, people, especially common people of a tribe distinguished from the chiefs. [Merriam-Webster dictionary]

**Tillikum (also Tillicum):** from the Chinook Jargon meaning friends, relations, tribe, common people. [Kenneth Watson, Chinook Jargon, White River Journal, July, 2002]

Recently, an unusual variant of B-5a was discovered.

On this token Tillicum is misspelled Tilliam. Other-wise everything is the same as the listed B-5a token. Mistakes do happen when dies are being created. The most common errors are accidentally using the wrong letter or skipping one letter completely. But on this token, two letters (CU) are replaced by an incorrect single letter (A).



The story about the correct spelling of this establishment's name gets more interesting with a little research. I discovered that it was incorporated in the District of Alaska in 1905 as the Tillikum Club - with a K instead of the C on the token.

Maybe after the Tilliam fiasco, they didn't care about the difference. Tenakee was a rowdy frontier town in the late 1890s. Soap Smith's gang was reputed to have gone there after

continued on page 13



## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month special thanks go to Ron Benice. How a die sinker could make such a mistake is beyond me. I have made all kinds of mistakes making my gold token dies - backward, inverted, misplaced, even the wrong letter. But never where I substituted a couple letters to get it totally messed up. And then the question is how did this ever leave the factory. Did no one look at it?

eBay was slow this month with only a few items of note. I think that maybe the Nome B&M 12½¢ token was a good buy. This is the scarcer partner to the 25¢. The Point Hope token realized less than half of the example that sold in September 2016 (\$1217). Fear of a hoard??

I am already planning for the fourth 10 year bound volume. I have the 40 year index done up to year 39. I will start printing the pages for the massive 10 year volume. I will print only enough to fill orders. If you want one, now would be a good time to let me know.

I have made a gold token from gold from the tailing piles of the Alaska Gastineau Mine at Thane. This gives us the opportunity to offer some AGM tokens for sale. Also offered for sale in this issue are some silver medals, tokens from villages and cannery tokens. Some are one only, others we have multiples. In the case of multiples, the token or set of tokens you receive may not be the ones pictured.

\* \* \* \* \*

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**Anchorage**, Union Club, set of 4, B-38 a-d 16.79

**Kobuk**, Harry Brown, 25¢, B-1a 6.99OB

**Long**, Willis, 25¢, B-2a 27.89



**Nome**, B&M Cigars & Tobacco, 12½¢, B-5a 525.94

**Platinum**, Alaska Traders, \$1, B-1c 217.95



**Point Hope**, St. Thomas' Mission, 25¢, B-1a 599.00

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## THE PORTLAND, NENANA



This token was reported in the Prices Realized last month and shown at 24mm, as shown in the catalogue. Joe Usibelli pointed out that we showed the die for this token in the April 1985 issue and it is 45mm!

## TILLIKUM CLUB, cont.

Skagway. It was called Hoonah Hot Springs before the Post Office was established in 1902 and renamed Tenakee. The name was changed to Tenakee Hot Springs in 1928. The town boomed in 1916 with the arrival of the canneries.

The photo on the front page of a Tenakee street scene was taken by John M. Blankenberg. He was born in Norway in 1860, entered Alaska during the Klondike gold rush and is well known for his photos of the Chilkoot Pass and Tlingit Indians. He settled in Tenakee where he died in 1939. The photo is undated but there are some indications that it was taken between 1918 and 1924.



The Tillicum Club is in the middle row of buildings, the last one with a sign. A close up of that building clearly shows the name, spelled Tillikum! Does this mean that the listed Tillicum Club tokens are errors too?

## TENAKEE TOKENS

Illustrated tokens provided by Ron Benice and Joe Usibelli.

### BRUNSWICK BILLIARD ROOM, 1918-1921



B-1a: 12½¢ in trade, aluminum, round, 24mm

### COLUMBIA SALMON CO.



B-2a: 5¢ in trade, aluminum, round, 22mm



B-2b: 10¢ in trade, aluminum, round, 18mm

### HUGH DAY POOL ROOM, 1914-1923



B-3a: 12½¢ in trade, alum. with hole, 24mm



B-3b: \$1 in trade, alum. with hole, 38mm

### EARLY & CO., circa 1920



B-4a: 6¼¢ in trade, brass, 21mm

### TILLIKUM CLUB, 1905-



B-5a: 6¼¢ in trade, brass, 21mm

continued on page 14



## TENAKEE TOKENS, CONT.



B-5b: 12½¢ in trade, brass, 24mm



B-5c: 6¼¢ in trade, brass, 21mm "Tilliam"

## ALASKA PACIFIC SALMON CO.



B-6, a to d: 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and \$1.00, 23mm x 68mm

## TILLICUM TOKEN 12½¢ FOR SALE



A bit worse for wear, and a bit bent. It is a scarce token and the condition is acceptable. **\$100.00**

## A TALE OF TWO TILLI(C)(K)UMS



I had completely forgot about this token! While working on the 40 year index, I came across this in the April 2014 issue. It seemed worthy of showing it again in light of the current article on the Tillikum Club. The token is 38mm, orange with black printing.

Joe Usibelli did some research placing this Tillikum Club in Valdez based upon the spelling. Joe also discovered that a Tillikum Club was incorporated in 1905, probably the same as the one Ron found.



P.S. Hunt, May 6, 1905

Photo courtesy of Alaska Digital Archives,  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Joe notes that it survived the fire of 1915. The same cannot be said for W.H. Blackwell's saloon (B-2a), J.C. Dierenger's barns (B-3, 11 and 12), the Charles Day Building (B-5) and the Seattle Hotel (B-20).

With the photo on page 13, we are left to wonder if this token is from Valdez or Tenakee!



# THE TOWN OF TENAKEE

from the Douglas Island News, date unknown.

It is perhaps true that very few residents of Tenakee sleep between sheets or use napkins. About half way up a long arm of Chatham straits that intrudes the rough, rocky hills of Chichagof island is the odd little village of Tenakee, made famous by the hot mineral waters that come bubbling up from the cleft of bed-rock, carrying a virtue that often heals, when wise medicos have exhausted their knowledge in vain. Despised as were the waters of the river Jordan by the haughty Romans, discarded crutches sing its glory and praise.

Coming up from the sea, a row of silent sentinels first greet the vision about the same time as the red warehouse on Ed Snyder's dock. Although known for many years, the town has grown but slowly until now a change has come through the invention of men in charge of the forest reserve. The dilapidated Indian shack and miner's log house is giving place to neat cottages with painted exteriors. The George E. James Co. has delivered 100,000 feet of lumber from the Douglas saw mill, into the hands of the forestry service. It will be used to plank the main street where formerly a winding path of dirt and rock sufficed. This is not the only blessing which the forestry service has brought. The town has been platted into lots and blocks, streets laid out and marked and a thousand dollars will be spent improving the springs and installing private baths for women.



A recent photo of Snyder Mercantile - the same building seen on the front page!

Ed Snyder, the pioneer merchant, has joined the march of improvement, and the steamship Redondo landed there last week with 145,000 feet of lumber which will be used by this enterprising citizen. First he will build a fine six room residence for himself. Then he will erect a 50 foot extension to his store, and before snow flies he will enlarge the town by building twenty-five new rent cottages.

Alex Hart is also planning extensive developments, to include a large store building with warehouses and dockage facilities for the numerous small craft that make headquarters there, besides a number of cottages. Alex expects to remain in Tenakee and has great confidence in its future.

We said that Tenakee is an odd town and so it is; there are but two children - a girl and a boy. There is a reason: the town has no school. Children there were, to the number of twenty odd, but prayers and petitions failed to touch the heart of the U.S. bureau of education and parents moved away. There are flowers and birds and gramophones, but the music of children's voices is rarely heard.

During the summer months Tenakee is quiet and her inhabitants are few, but in winter the sick come from every direction to seek for health and strength, and Tenakee is a busy place. They come not only from Southeastern Alaska, but from all parts of the Yukon Territory and Interior Alaska, and the quiet country village becomes a bustling frontier town.

Health resorts for the rich are found in many places, but here you can live as cheaply as at home and the baths are free, and a blessing it is to hundreds who could not afford it if otherwise. If you are sick and tired and worn out generally, roll your blanket and head for Tenakee.

Ed. Note: We had a large stack of Douglas Island News papers from 1901 to 1915. This article is from that time period. Based upon the dates in Ron Benice's *Alaska and Yukon Tokens*, Tenakee's "boom time" occurred after this date.

We quoted from these papers about token issuers in issues of this newsletter from 1990 to 1994.

# DON'T YOU FEEL SPECIAL!!

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

2016

UNITED STATES  
DISTRIBUTION  
NOTICE:



■ TRYING TO KEEP UP: Rapid shipments of heavy packages containing Vault Bricks loaded with valuable .999 solid U.S. State Silver Bars are flowing around the clock from the private vaults of the Lincoln Treasury to U.S. State residents who call 1-866-779-6706 EXT. FMS1217 to beat the 7-day deadline.

## U.S. State Silver Bars go to residents in 49 states

U.S. residents who find their state listed below in bold get first dibs at just the \$57 minimum set for state residents while all non state residents must pay \$134, if any silver bars remain

AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL
GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA
ME	MD	MA	MI	MN	MS	MO	MT	NE
NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK
OR	PA	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT
WA	WV	WY	WI	WY				



Of all the coin “scams” in recent years, this was probably the least objectionable. The price of \$57 was high for 1 oz. of silver, but there are other manufacturers who charge more. But these were available at that price only to state residents. If you did not live in the state, the price was \$134 for other state silver bars. But if you lived in Alaska (or any other state), you could buy your state bar at the special price. Don’t you feel special. But wait. The add is not clear. To get that special price of \$57 per ounce, you might have had to buy a “vault brick” of 5 State Silver Bars. And if you purchased two vault bricks, you would get free shipping and handling. “That’s a real steal because all other state residents must pay over six hundred dollars for each State Vault Brick.”

Only 49 states were available. Conspicuous by its absence was Minnesota. The ad states (and you have to really look for it) “No shipments to Minnesota.” The only reason we can think of as to why is that the state of Minnesota passed a law stating that anyone selling into the state had to collect the state sales tax. The sellers chose to avoid that problem.

They are careful to note that Federated Mint, LLC and Lincoln Treasury, LLC “are not affiliated with the U.S. Government, a bank or any government agency.”

This is the only one we have had come in the store. That’s the good news. One can only hope that not too many locals got sucked in to this one!

Slightly scuffed, \$35 postpaid.





## NEW GOLD TOKEN



The gold in this token has been recovered from the tailing piles of the Alaska Gastineau Mines. The tailing piles are located on the beach at Thane. The gold is mined using three inch gold dredges, then passed through a mini-sluice, and finally hand panned.



Thane was the site of the massive Alaska-Gastineau Mining Company's mill, about four miles from downtown Juneau. The mill was the centerpiece, treating an average of 8,000 tons per day, the ore averaging .05 troy ounce per ton.<sup>1</sup>

"The mill went into operations on February 19, 1915, using flint pebbles shipped from Denmark to grind the ore. With this innovation...was able to recover 90.7 percent of the gold in the ore..."<sup>2</sup> This explains why there is still gold in the tailing piles!



First Mill Run Medal, March 1, 1915

The Alaska Gastineau Mine ceased operations in June 1921 due to water seeping into the ore and low grade ore.

These 1 DWT (.05 troy ounce) gold tokens represent a ton of ore! They are available for \$85 and include a 1/10 oz. silver die trial.



## A.G.M. CO TOKENS

### THANE



A.G.M. Co. Club Room, 12½¢. B-1a. \$25.00



Alaska Gastineau Mining Co., 1 Loaf of Bread, B-2a, looks mint state. \$250.00



Alaska Gastineau Mining Co., 5¢. B-2b \$15.00



Alaska Gastineau Mining Co., 10¢ B-2c \$15.00



A.G.M. Co. ID or tool check, B-C1aI \$10.00

Prices are postpaid. Please call or email.

\*\*\*\*\*

<sup>1</sup>Jared Hatch email

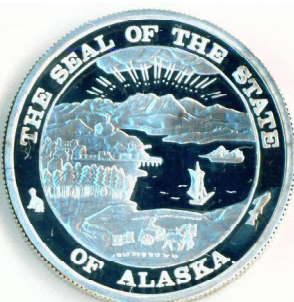
<sup>2</sup> History of the Mines and Miners in the Juneau Gold Belt, Earl Redman.



# 1 OZ. SILVER MEDALS - AS PRICED, POSTPAID



ALASKA AVIATION, 1992, DHC-3. \$35.00



ALASKA AVIATION, 1999, DHC-6 \$35.00



ALASKA AVIATION, 1993, PA-18. \$35.00



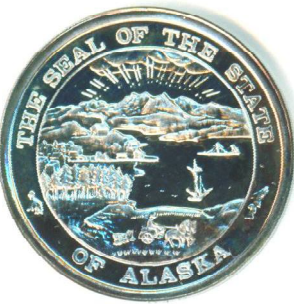
ALASKA HIGHWAY/LEND LEASE, 1992. This is the first variety of our highway medal, with a smooth road (totally unrealistic ;). We rarely see these. Mintage was only 450. \$45.00



ALASKA AVIATION, 1994, G-21A. \$35.00



ALASKA AVIATION, 1995, C-185 \$35.00



ALASKA HIGHWAY, 1992. By the Anchorage Mint (before they were the Alaska Mint). Years ago they carried this on their price list for \$150! \$35.00



50 YEARS OF STATEHOOD, by Northwest Territorial Mint (no longer in the silver minting business). With gold relief. I believe only the second we have had come in the store. \$50.00

## VOLUMES 31-40

BOUND INTO ONE VOLUME  
PLEASE RESERVE YOURS NOW  
LIMITED TO THOSE RESERVED.  
PRICE WILL BE ABOUT \$200  
SEND NO MONEY NOW.



# ***VILLAGE TOKENS FOR SALE*** - Prices are postpaid



**MOUNTAIN VILLAGE:** Sheppard Trading Co.,  
25¢ to \$20, B-1 a-f. **85.00**



**SHISHMAREF:** Native Store, set of 5, 5¢ to \$1, B-1 a-e. **\$35.00**



**NOORVIK:** Noorvik Cooperative Store, set of 6,  
5¢ to \$5, B-1 a-f. **\$125.00**



**TELLER:** Teller Commercial Co., set of 4, 5¢ to \$1,  
B-3, aI and b-d. **35.00**



**TELLER:** North Star Mercantile Co., set of 4, 5¢ to  
\$1, B-2 a-d, red fiber. **\$125.00**

>>>>>>>>



# ***CANNERY TOKENS FOR SALE*** - Prices are postpaid



**EXCURSION INLET:** A.&P.S.Co.; 5¢, 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢. B-1 a-d. Regular price - \$45  
Special price - **\$35.00**

**HOONAH:** Icy Straits Salmon Co., set of 4; 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1. B-2 a-d. Regular - \$100 - **\$80.00**



**HOONAH:** Hoonah Packing Co., set of 7; 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, (3 different) 50¢, \$1. B-1 a-e. Catalogues for \$210. Net - **\$160.00**

**BERING RIVER:** Hoonah Packing Co., 5¢, B-1a **75.00**

>>>>>



**NAKAT et al:** Nakat Packing Corp., 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢. Was \$350. Only one set left - **\$275.00**



**YES BAY:** Alaska Pacific Fisheries: 5¢ B-3a. **\$75.00**



**YES BAY:** Alaska Pacific Fisheries: \$1, B-3e **\$100.00**







See page 28

# A FEW TALES FROM SITKA

“From Sitka’s Past” by Robert N. DeArmond  
Copyright Daily Sitka Sentinel (1995)  
Reprinted with permission

## HANS ANDERSON

By a good stretch, the oldest privately owned business firm in town that has remained in the ownership of one family is Neill Andersen’s. It is also the only one among the older firms that is still in its original location; one where it has been for more than 80 years.



Han’s Andersen, Neill’s father, who established the firm, was not entirely lucky in his business ventures. Early in the century he had built a hotel in the booming town of Hadley on Prince of Wales Island. Hadley was a supply point for several mines and had a copper smelter and a fair-sized saw mill. But the bottom fell out of the copper market. Several of the mines closed and so did the smelter, and Andersen took his losses and came to Sitka.



Here, in September, 1913, he signed an agreement with Robert and Anna Witz to buy the Witz Saloon and Bowling Alley for \$5,000. He paid \$500 down and was to make 18 quarterly payments of \$250 each, with interest at 6 per cent.

It appeared a good deal. Sitka had been in an economic slump of some duration but was beginning to come out of it. The same month that Hans Andersen took over the saloon the Booth Fisheries Company received its first load of halibut and the Sitka Pioneers Home received its first residents.

But the bottom dropped out for Andersen the following May. Under regulations set up by the District Courts, which at that time issued the liquor licenses, Sitka residents voted to go “dry.” So far as can be determined, Sitka was the first town in Alaska to do so.

The bowling alley, the card tables and the pool and billiard tables continued, and a 1920 advertisement listed cigars, cigarettes and tobacco; Helen Ardelle chocolates, fresh fruits, delicatessen items and 30 brands of beverages including extra dry Ponomo and Spitz cider, Pabst cereal beverage, Buckstaff, Lifestaff and Applestaff, and a large number of non-alcoholic beers, commonly referred to as “near beer.” But there were at least two other pool halls -- Stick and Dan’s Place in the Moose Hall and Segall’s Pool Hall up the street -- offering, except for bowling, pretty much the same line of entertainment and goods, plus perhaps some bootleg liquor now and then. Sitka was not enjoying overwhelming prosperity in those years and the pool hall business was a marginal one.

Andersen brought his family to Sitka, and Neill and his sister Ruth attended school here, but after a couple of years Mrs. Andersen and the children moved to Seattle. Hans made some improvements to his property, including a two-story addition at the rear, with an apartment upstairs, in the fall of 1920. The front part of the building was remodeled in 1921 with a plate glass front and a concrete sidewalk. This was the first concrete sidewalk in the downtown business section. When Hans Andersen’s poor health made it impossible for him to continue operating the business, his brother George came to Sitka to take over. Neill Andersen re-

continued on page 23

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our thanks this month go to Thad Poulson of the Sitka Daily Sentinel for granting permission to use excerpts from "From Sitka's Past" by Robert N. DeArmond.

There are a couple neat paper items on page 27. On page 28, we get a bit more history and a surprise about Sam Shucklin.

We are pleased to announce that the first 30 years of this newsletter is now available on line at the Newman Numismatic Portal.

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/523362>

Our short-lived Alaskan Znachki Bulletin is also available:

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>

For those of you who have only been with us a short time, you can look at these back issues on line. Hopefully you will find that there has been a vast improvement from the first issue in 1979.

These are hosted by the Washington University Library in St. Louis. The next time we visit our daughter, I will have to stop in.

Our next auction is scheduled for April 7. The April issue will be in the mail the last week in March (or sooner) so you will have time to bid.

**Last chance to reserve a hard bound 10 year volume (volume 31 to 40). Let me hear from you.**

\* \* \* \* \*

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Canada	\$35 per year
Elsewhere	\$40 per year
PDF via email	\$20 per year
Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Cheechako Tavern, 12½¢, B-11bI	12.05
<b>Anchorage</b> , Hunter Bar & SS, 10¢, B-21a	15.35
<b>Bering River</b> , Hoonah Pkg. Co., \$1, B-1e	249.99OB
<b>Craig</b> , Lib & Jessie's, set of 3, B-3	10.02
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Slotten's Billiard Rm., 5¢, B-58a	76.00
<b>King Salmon</b> , NCO OM, \$1, B-2c	10.50
<b>Platinum</b> , AK Traders, 50¢ and \$1, B-1 b,c	600.00BIN*
<b>Seward</b> , Holben, 12½¢, B-18a, corroded	12.57
<b>Skagway</b> , Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23aI	20.58
<b>Alaska Pacific Steamship Co.</b> , fob	42.01
<b>A.Y.P.E.</b> , encased cent, round	27.88

\* A hoard was reported in the Oct. 2012 issue. These are starting to appear more frequently.

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## YUKON QUEST



The Yukon Quest sled dog race from Fairbanks to Whitehorse, Yukon began on Feb. 3. My wife won a YQ package from her credit union that included tickets to the luncheon, draw banquet and a ride with a musher from Fairbanks to Ft. Wainwright. She selected a rookie musher from Whitehorse, 23 year old Nathaniel Hamlyn.

I went home Thursday afternoon before the banquet and made silver tokens for him - (8) 1/10 oz. and (8) 1 gram. I would have done all in 1/10 oz. but I was out of blanks. Saturday morning, I got up early, remembering that I had a maple leaf punch. I made more 1/10 oz. blanks, added the maple leaf to the die, and made 20 more for him to take on the trip. Hopefully, he will carry them to the end and may be able to peddle them to help to pay expenses.

I was planning on making more to sell, but decided not to. If you are willing to pay \$100 (my suggested price, not his) for a race-carried 1/10 oz. token, let me know, and I will put you in touch with Nathaniel. This is a great opportunity to help a young musher follow his dream.

FYI - 26 mushers started the race, only 13 finished. It was brutal this year with extended periods of -30 to -50 degree cold. Veterans and rookies scratched. Nathaniel hung in there and finished 13th, in the Red Lantern position. He also received the "Challenge of the North Award," as the musher who most exemplified the spirit of the Yukon Quest.



## SITKA TALES, CONT.

turned to Sitka in the summer of 1924 to assist George, went back to school that fall and came north again in 1925. When George was ready to retire, Neill took over the management of the business.

Early in 1926, Neill began the first of many remodelings by installing booths for use in connection with a soda fountain and lunch counter. While the card and pool tables remained in the back of the room, the emphasis turned more and more to food service and the name was changed from Andersen's Pool Hall to Alaska Grill and Fountain.

Back in 1919, Hans Andersen had brought a Ford touring car to town (it may have been the first passenger car in town) and in 1926 Neill overhauled it and took out a taxi license. A couple of years earlier William Kasko and Rudolph Walton\* had shipped in a seven-passenger Studebaker and with it operated a part-time taxi service. Neill's taxi seems to have been the second one in town.

\* - Rudolph Walton was a well known Tlingit engraver of bracelets, spoons, and silver dollars (see ATC&PN Sept/Oct. 2014).



### SILVER FOAM ... PARLOR

The lower floor of the Peterson building did not remain vacant for long. The Eighteenth Amendment and the Alaska Bone Dry Law had both been repealed and drinking places were opening here and there around town. At first, under Alaska law, only beer could be sold by the drink; hard liquor could be sold only in bottles and, at first, only in drug stores.

Whether W.H. "Walt" Bacon established the Silver Foam Beer and Ice Cream Parlor is uncertain, but if he did not establish it he soon became the owner. After liquor by the drink became legal the name was changed to Silver Foam Cocktail Bar and Ice Cream Parlor.

Walt Bacon, the owner of the Silver Foam, died suddenly in California in April 1941. The Silver Foam passed into other hands.

...by 1943 Harry Hagan was the manager and probably part owner. In December of 1946 he was appointed to the City Council to fill the seat vacated by the death of Frank Price and the following April he was elected mayor.

Not long after his election Hagan closed the Silver Foam for remodeling. He designed a new bar in the shape of a boat's bow, with an anchor hanging from the hawser pipe, running lights and a flying bridge with the steering wheel from the wrecked halibut schooner KANGA. The new bar was built by the Sitka Marine Railway and after it was installed the place was reopened, on June 25, 1947, as the Silver Foam Yacht Club. By then the building was being referred to in the newspaper as the Silver Foam building.



### SITKA ELKS

On August 2, 1956, Mrs. Hilma Peterson, John's widow, sold the Peterson Building (the Silver Foam building) and the ground on which it stood to the Sitka Building Association for an undisclosed amount. This was a non-profit corporation formed by some members of the Elks Lodge and appears to have been acting for the lodge. Just when the Silver

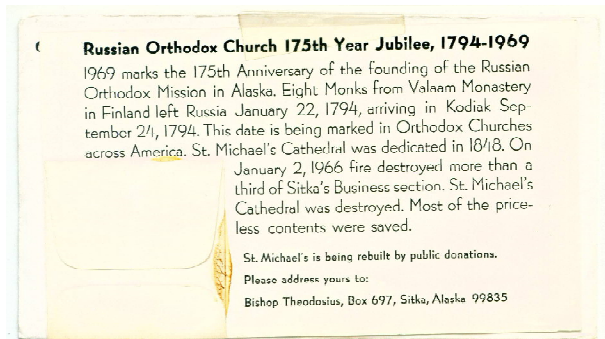
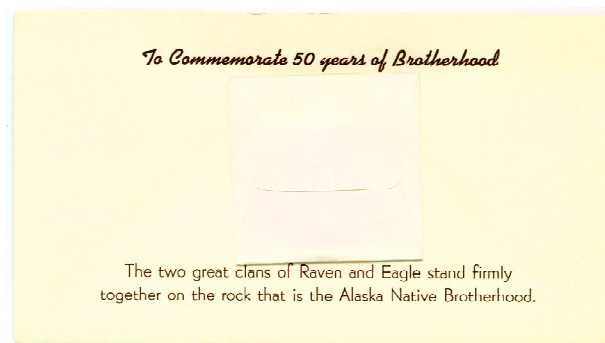
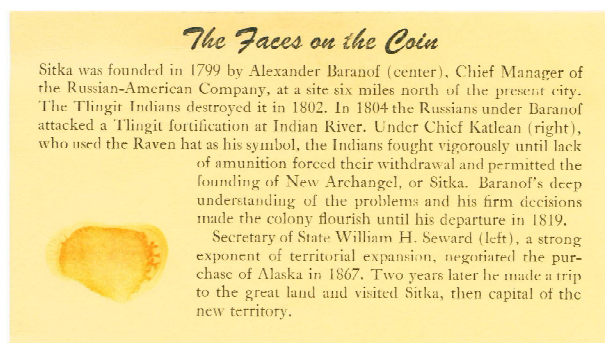


## SITKA TALES, CONT.

Foam closed its doors and the Elks took over the entire building is uncertain, but in September 1867 (ed. note: 1967?) the lodge acquired ownership of the building from the Sitka Building Association.

In 1978 B.P.O.E. No. 1662 moved to a building on Sawmill Creek Boulevard and on August 15 the Elks building on Lincoln Street was sold.

The Reid and Jack, Fitzgerald, Peterson, Silver Foam, Elks, Stromme, Old Harbor Books building is approaching its hundredth year and indications are that it will go into its second century with the book store as a permanent occupant.



Envelopes and cards to accompany medals offered on this page and the following page, as noted in their descriptions.

## SITKA TOKENS AND MEDALS FOR SALE



**American Legion Club, Post 13, set of 3; 25¢, \$1 and \$5, B-2 a-c** **\$35.00**

**Elks Club, Sitka Day, 1957, set of 3; 25¢, \$1 and \$5, B-7 a-c (see page 23)** **\$35.00**



**R. Witz, 5¢, B-17a. Was \$65** **\$45.00**



**Bananof Bus Co., One Far, B-T2a** **\$10.00**



**Sitka Trade Dollar, 1963, cn, 39mm** **\$5.00**

**With card and envelope (left column)** **\$12.00**

**ALL PRICES ARE POSTPAID.**



# SITKA TOKENS AND MEDALS FOR SALE, cont.



**American Legion** encased cent, 1965 **\$5.00**



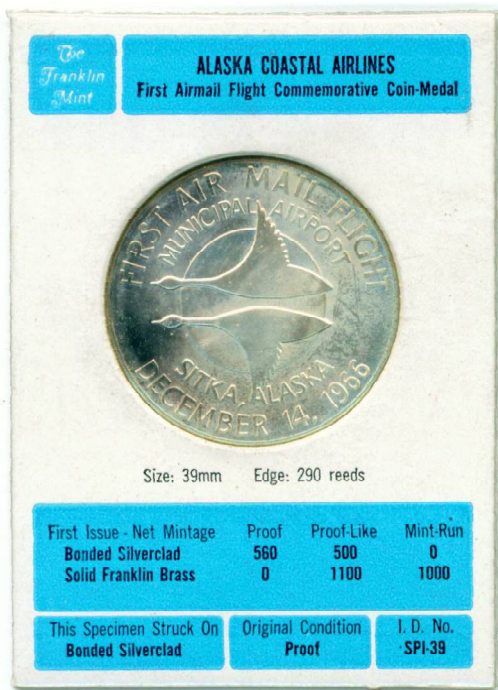
**Russian Orthodox Church Jubilee**, 175 years, 1794-1969. St. Michael's Cathedral.  
.999 silver, 38mm **\$25.00**  
As above, bronze, with card **\$8.00**, w/env. **\$12.00**



**Alaska Native Brotherhood**, Golden Anniversary, 1912-1962, brz, 39mm, w/card (pg 24) **\$12.00**



**Sitka Lodge 1662**, Alaska State Elks Convention, 1977. Bronze, 40mm **\$8.00**



**Alaska Coastal Airlines**, First Airmail Flight, 1966, by Franklin Mint, bonded silver clad, in original packaging. **\$15.00**



**Elks -BPOE 1662**, Drink token, Alaska's First Capital, in small letter - Pat Fager 85. Bronze, 39mm. **\$8.00**



**Pioneers of Alaska**, 63rd Convention, good for one drink, black on wood. **\$2.00**



As preceding, Franklin brass, with card and envelope.

**\$10.00**



Some tokens are one only, while there are duplicates of others. The token(s) you receive may not be the ones pictured. Prices are postpaid.



# PORT ALEXANDER TOKENS FOR SALE

Port Alexander was a bustling fishing port in the 1920s and 1930s. It featured stores, a soda fountain, butcher shop, restaurants, a dairy and dance hall. It was incorporated in 1936. After World War II, the town's economy collapsed with the dwindling salmon stocks.

In 1963, the state was forcing municipalities into boroughs (Mandatory Borough Act). The dominant town in the area could select their boundaries to include smaller, remoter areas including villages, and make them subject to their laws and taxes. The Denali Borough was formed not too long ago to prevent the Matanuska-Susitna Borough from extending their boundary to include that area. Boundary disputes and forced annexations continue up to today.

In 1963, Port Alexander was forced into the City and Borough of Sitka. Not happy with the situation, the residents of Port Alexander seceded from the City and Borough of Sitka, and incorporated as a second class city in 1974.

Today it is a small community dependent upon commercial and subsistence fishing.

## JOHN JACOBSEN



B-3a, 12½¢ in trade



15.00



B-3b, 50¢ in trade



15.00

## T.J. JACOBSEN



B-4a, 50¢ in trade



15.00



B-4b, \$1 in trade



15.00

**NOTE: All Jacobsen tokens have light corrosion.**

## PASTIME CARD ROOM



B-5a, 5¢ in trade



100.00

## ART'S PLACE



B-1a, 5¢ in trade



125.00

## KNUTE DALSBØ



B-2a, 5 cts.

35.00



B-2b 25 cts.

35.00

Some tokens are one only, while there are duplicates of others. The token(s) you receive may not be the ones pictured. Prices are postpaid.



## TWO INTERESTING INSCRIBED NOTES



Inscribed: "To Alice Horton / C.J. Egan / Valdez, Alaska: Went Through / Earthquake & / Tidal Wave"

C.J. "Truck" Egan inscribed this note to his sister, Alice Egan Horton. C.J. Egan was proprietor of The Pinzon in Valdez. Valdez was devastated in the 1964 earthquake and tidal wave.



This note is a real mystery!

Inscribed: "Riggs A. Peter / Barrow, Alaska / Army Dog Team Rescue" on a 1936 Central Bank of China 1 Yuan.

We find Riggs Peter in several Fairbanks Daily News-Miners of the 1950s and 1960s, in one of which (1955) he went to NCO school in Anchorage and returns as SFC Riggs Peters in the National Guard. We find nothing on "Army Dog Team Rescue."

The design of the note only slightly resembles dogs and sleds ;)

# SAM SHUCKLIN!!!

Ron Benice sent in the clothing label shown to the right. This prompted me to do a google search on Sam Shucklin.

Mr. Shucklin gets lots of mentions in the Fairbanks newspapers. Unfortunately, they are pay sites.

The most insight into Sam comes from archiveswest. orbiscascade.org. in an oral history provide by Gerald Shucklin, his son. But it is not entirely accurate.

“Mr. Shucklin relates his family history as well as his own early life in Alaska and Seattle. His father came from Lithuania seeking an uncle, Jacob Cohen, in the West. Sam Shucklin had several clothing ventures in the Seattle clothing business, was married in 1907, and then tried the clothing business in Alaska beginning with Fairbanks circa 1901 and Anchorage from 1917-1918. He eventually became established in a wholesale business in Alaska with headquarters in Seattle.”

He could not have been in Fairbanks in 1901, as he was in Dawson from 1901-1903. Also, Fairbanks was not founded until 1902!



by permission  
Dawson City Museum  
1981.2.1.2

In Dawson, Shucklin worked for Hersberg & Co. He is likely to be one of the ten men in this photo.



Also missing is his time in Chisana from 1913 to 1915. He followed the gold rush, and likely ran a clothing store rather than a general store.

In any case, it appears his time in Alaska stayed with him, as he went into the wholesale clothing business as can be seen on this label. But what is the label attached to?



It is attached to a parka that is for sale on a Japanese vintage clothing site!



# STATE MEDAL MINTAGES VALDEZ TO FAIRBANKS

SILVER	2015	2016
2 oz. Proof	34	37
1 oz. Proof	1,579	1,668
1 oz. Proof-like (Matte)	92	95
½ oz. Proof	105	100
¼ oz. Proof	100	100
1/10 oz. Proof	100	100
1/20 oz. Proof	100	100

## GOLD (all Proof)

3 oz.	9	9
1 oz.	25	34
½ oz.	10	10
¼ oz.	15	15
1/10 oz.	25	30
1/20 oz.	30	30

½ Ounce shown actual size.



We have the following silver medals available at original issue price:

## 2015

1/20 oz.	\$13.00
1/10 oz.	\$15.00
½ oz.	\$40.00

## 2016

1/20 oz.	\$13.00
1/10 oz.	\$15.00
¼ oz.	\$22.50
½ oz.	\$40.00

Please note that all the 2016 medals offered have a clear coat on the obverse.

Terribly low mintages. Once these are gone, they will be very hard to find.

On these, please include \$5 for postage unless combined with another postpaid offer.

**VALDEZ OFFERS THIS SERVICE**

<p>Alaska Motor Stages</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To</p> <p><b>\$15 Fairbanks \$15</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">•</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Modern De Luxe Coaches</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEET ALL BOATS</p>	<p>Gillam Airways</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To</p> <p><b>\$35 Fairbanks \$35</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">•</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fast Ten-Place Planes</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEET ALL BOATS</p>
--	--

*Richardson Highway--Short Route to Fairbanks*

Points of Interest on the Richardson Highway		
MILEAGE TABLE		
Valdez—	—Fairbanks	
0	VALDEZ	371
13	Entrance Keystone Canyon	358
14	Horsetail Falls	357
14.3	Bridal Veil	356.7
16	Snowslide Gulch	355
25.4	Deadhorse Gulch	345.6
25.5	Thompson Pass, 2722 Ft. Ele.	354.5
30	Worthington Glacier	341
38	Devil's Elbow	333
52	Tiekel Roadhouse	319
78	Sulphur Springs	293
80	Tonsina Lodge	291
92.4	Edgerton Cutoff to Chitina	278.6
103	Copper Center	268
128	Gulkana	243
191	Paxson Lodge	180
196.5	Summit Lake	174.5
203	Isabella Pass, 3310 Ft. Ele.	168
212	Rainbow Mountain	159
233	BLACK RAPIDS GLACIER	138
253	Pillsbury Dome, 2875 Ft. Ele.	118
280	Tanana River Ferry	91
320	Fox Farm	51
371	FAIRBANKS	0

•

Compiled By  
*Valdez Chamber of Commerce*

A very neat advertising card issued by the Valdez Chamber of Commerce. It is interesting to note that more than half of the points of interest are within 100 miles of Valdez!

Let's see - \$15 for a bumpy multi-day ride in a primitive bus or \$35 for a one day (?) ride in a cold, noisy airplane. Are you feeling lucky today?

Shown reduced size. Actual size 141mm by 76mm (Candy Waugaman).

# VILLAGE TOKENS FOR SALE - Prices are postpaid



**KWIGUK:** Alstrom, set of 6, B-1, a-f; 25¢, 50¢, \$1, \$5 and (2) \$10 triangle and red fiber. **\$80.00**  
**As above, \$10 red fiber, B-1f** **\$10.00**

**GAMBELL:** Short set of 7; B-1, a-f, 1¢ -50¢, \$1 and \$5. **\$30.00**



**SELAVIK:** Louis Rotman, set of 3, B-1 a-c; 25¢, 50¢ and \$1 **\$95.00**



**SAVOONGA:** Short set of 5, B-1, a-e, 1¢ - 50¢. **\$95.00**



**KIVALINA:** Reindeer & Trading Co. 5¢, B-1aII **\$5.00 each, 5 for \$15.00**



**GAMBELL & SAVOONGA:** 1¢, 5¢ and 10¢. Six tokens - **\$18.00**





See page 35

# RESEARCHING TOKENS BEFORE THE INTERNET NOME MAVERICKS

by Ron Benice

Two independently compiled catalogues of Alaska tokens were published in 1965: Kaye and Nancy Dethridge in Juneau (with Maurice Gould and Kenneth Bressett) wrote *Alaska's Coinage Through the Years* while Kay Fernald and Kay McDowell wrote *Rubles to Statehood*. (If you find it curious that three of the four authors were named "K," then consider that the other two spouses were Gene and Jean!)

I was living in Washington D.C. area and realized that I had access to more printed resources for researching tokens than were available in Alaska. The Library of Congress had complete sets of city and state directories and phone books, etc. I moved to the New York area in 1970 where the New York Public Library had more directories and Dun and Bradstreet maintained archives of their directories. These led to my writing *Alaska Tokens* in 1979 with significantly more information about the issuers.

The most troublesome gap in my research was the inability to confirm the attribution to Nome of numerous mavericks that were listed in *Rubles to Statehood* but not in *Alaska's Coinage*. Of the nine additional listings in the former (excluding tokens bearing only a single letter of number), seven had no city or state on them. I learned that all seven were owned and attributed by one person, an Alaska State Trooper who spent a considerable amount of time in Nome and acquired them in a variety of ways in Nome. Since Kay and Kay and the group of collectors compiling *Rubles to Statehood* accepted them, I felt obligated to include them in my catalogue, but with cautionary words. Here are my latest comments about the seven.



**B&M Cigars and Tobacco:** I did find Herbert Butler and Bruno Mauro selling cigars in Nome, so this one is probably OK. But there was another B&M Cigar Store in Dawson that issued tokens. Tokencatalog.com has non-cigar B&M listings for Chicago, Seattle, Tacoma and towns in four other states.

**C W:** I found a saloon operated by John Caldwell and Walter Wettergren. But the reverse legend "good for whatever sold at" points to a general store rather than a saloon. However, their saloon was called the "U and I," so maybe they liked initials. Then in 1984 I bought a group of Nome tokens from the estate of a military officer in Georgia who had accumulated them while stationed near Nome - and C W was among them. So I was comfortable with the attribution.



continued on page 33

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our thanks this month go to Ron Benice. We learn why some of the Nome mavericks were included, and get his latest thoughts.

Even with all the problems with the internet, researching tokens has become much less labor intensive. But there are times when it is just not there, and I think, "but this is the internet, it has to be there!"

To fully understand the state of research into Alaska tokens, it is necessary to have the references that pre-date the current version of Ron Benice's book, *Alaska and Yukon Tokens, Private coins of the Territories*. We are offering these below right. Supplies are limited.

Personal recollections and first hand accounts are fun. J.W. Terrill tells a short tale about the Chicken at Chick-N-Burger.

This issue features our April 7 auction. While the tokens are "boring," there are some very interesting Alaska collectibles. And don't overlook the 1 oz. gold University of Alaska woolly mammoth or Alaska Railroad. These have very low mintages. And if all you want is a bunch of junk, see lot 265. Keep in mind that postage will be hefty if we have to ship it!

**I said this last month, but this is the last notice I will give if you want to reserve a hard bound 10 year volume (volume 31 to 40). Let me hear from you.**

\* \* \* \* \*

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Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb

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Elsewhere	\$40 per year
PDF via email	\$20 per year
Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Dutch Harbor</b> , Off. Mess, 5¢ and 10¢, B-3 a-b	20.00OB
<b>(Fairbanks)</b> , Essie Dale encased cent	158.05
<b>False Pass</b> , P.E. Harris, 25¢, B-1c	200.00OB
<b>Ft. Greely</b> , NCO OM chit book, B-1 a-d paper	30.00
<b>Ft. Greely</b> , NCO OM chit book, B-1 a-d cdbd	30.00
<b>Ft. Wainwright</b> , 49 OM chit book, B-2 a-c	67.66
<b>Indian Mt.</b> , 708 NCO OM, 5¢, B-1aI	7.00OB
<b>Juneau</b> , Juneau Drug, 5¢, B-35a	200.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Arctic, 12½¢, B-4a	9.99OB
<b>(Nome)</b> , P.H. Harkin, 25, B-24a	28.00
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a	32.00
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	44.95BIN
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	20.50
<b>Yakutat</b> , Y&S Rwy., \$1 B-3d	164.50
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , Kilgore & Landahl, B-14a	32.00
<b>Whitehorse, YT</b> , TDP, 50¢, B-7b	9.99OB
<b>Whitehorse, YT</b> , TDP, \$1, B-7c	10.50
<b>Whitehorse, YT</b> , TDP, \$10, B-7e	27.00
<b>Whitehorse, YT</b> , TDP, 25,50,\$1 and \$10 B-7	85.21
<b>Hudson Bay Co.</b> , St.Law/Labrador 20 MB	54.75
<b>Hudson Bay Co.</b> , Labrador Dist., 1 MB	23.13
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, round, uncirculated	159.50
<b>Good Luck Bank of Alaska</b> advertising note	80.00

OB =Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## TOKEN REFERENCES

Ron Benice mentions the two token references published in 1965. We have these available, and others.

<i>Alaska's Coinage Through the Years</i> , Gould and Bressett, 1960.	<b>\$22.00</b>
<i>Alaska's Coinage Through the Years</i> , Gould, Bressett, Dethridge and Dethridge, 1965.	<b>\$25.00</b>
<i>Rubles to Statehood</i> , Fernald and McDowell, 1965.	
Regular price - \$100 Special price -	<b>\$55.00</b>
<i>Alaska Tokens</i> , Benice, 1979.	<b>\$40.00</b>
<i>Alaska Tokens</i> , Benice, 1994.	<b>\$40.00</b>
<i>Alaska &amp; Yukon Tokens</i> , Benice, 2010.	<b>\$40.00</b>
<i>Yukon Numismatica</i> , Hill and Simpson, 1990.	<b>\$18.00</b>
<i>Tinnahs &amp; Seal Skins, Gold Dust &amp; Bingles</i> , Hanscom, 2015, softbound	<b>\$32.00</b>
As above, hardbound	<b>\$75.00</b>
<i>Alaska &amp; Yukon Stocks and Bonds</i> , Hanscom, 2002, was \$35	<b>\$18.00</b>
<i>Striking Gold in Alaska, Making tokens from Placer Gold</i> , 6 <sup>th</sup> ed. Hanscom, 2017.	<b>\$18.00</b>

Prices are postpaid via media mail.



## NOME MAVERICKS, CONT.

**Clafin Bros.:** This was catalogued as Glafin Bros in *Rubles to Statehood*. I was able to find one of the brothers, A.E., in the 1900 census and in the 1901 and 1902 directories with a grocery store and a general store.



**Eldorado:** Nome had an Eldorado saloon on Front Street from 1901 to the September 1905 fire. But it was a common name used in many places, especially the west.



**Frank's:** A common name. Tokencatalog.com has 375 listings around the country. Frank Johnson did own a saloon on Front Street in 1901. There are listed Frank's tokens from Ouzinkie. This attribution requires a leap of faith.



**P.H. HARKIN:** I found no credible record of this person in any directory or census for the U.S. or Canada. (I did find a Catholic Priest in Quebec in 1851.) However, the following item appeared in the December 10, 1899 issue of the Skagway *Daily Alaskan*: "P.H. Harkin, who returned from Juneau on the Al-Ki, will leave for Dawson after the weather gets somewhat colder, and will take in five or six horses for the Yukon Iron Works. He has already prepared to immediately send forward a dog team in charge of C.S. Hubbell with supplies for the same company." This doesn't help place him in Nome nor does it indicate why he would issue tokens. I did find a John J. Harkin in the southern district of Alaska in the 1900 and 1920 census and in Juneau in 1940.

**W. J. B.:** On this token the J in the middle is larger than the other letters, so the person's initials in the



normal order would be W. B. J. Either way it is a common letter combination for names. If it is a love token, then the W. and B. are for different people. There is no denomination or any words on the token to give any clue as to its usage.

See page 32 for a listing of Alaska token references for sale.

## GUILT BY ASSOCIATION??



A seller on eBay out of British Columbia has been offering P.H. Harkin tokens and Kilgore & Landahl, Dawson tokens (at least 2 of each). The seller says that they came together in an estate purchase.

The 1901 gazetteer has a Bud Harkin working for Yukon Iron Works (probably for the year 1900). As Ron Benice notes, P.H. was working for Y.I.W. in 1899. Bud is a common nickname if one is a Jr., or perhaps the P in P.H. stands for Phineas and he didn't like his first name. I think it is highly likely that Bud is P.H.

In the 1902 gazetteer, "Bud" is running the Ogilvie Roadhouse, which was located at the confluence of the Sixtymile and the Yukon Rivers, south or upriver from Dawson. I find it unlikely that the token would have been used at Ogilvie Roadhouse.

As we have seen with the Cleary hoard, tokens did travel from Dawson to the Fairbanks area, and the same can probably be said for them getting to Nome.

While we cannot give any sort of positive attribution, the fact that it is turning up with a Dawson token gives strength to the idea that the token originates in Yukon.

I am hoping to get up to the UAF Library this spring to do some further research in Dawson newspapers.

# CHICK-N-BURGER



J.W. Terrill provided the photo above, and a few comments.

"I remember eating there in the 64-67 era as we lived off Boniface and Tudor. Nice southern couple owned it - treated customers like family. And the chicken and chicken burgers were great!

"Last time I saw that chicken it was headed south on the Seward Highway about the Hope cut-off. It was on a truck. The back of the truck. Tied down standing up. 15 years ago?"



Chick-N-Burger issued 5 tokens, all 25¢. Presumably, the first was the brass, followed by the same token in aluminum, both between 22mm and 23mm. This was followed by three different 25mm blue anodize aluminum tokens.



The first gives the location as the Palmer Hwy.

Next two tokens are for "two locations." Which came first is unknown to me.



One just says "Two Locations."



The other states "Glenn Hwy. Also Seward Hwy."

Originally known as the Palmer Road, built to reach the lands settled by the A.R.R.C. in the 1930s, it was part of the military road construction of World War II and connected Anchorage to the Alaska Highway via Glennallen. At some point, the local designation changed from Palmer Hwy. to Glenn Hwy.

We have available for sale the following Chick-N-Burger tokens:

25¢ brass, one only	<b>\$5.00</b>
25¢ aluminum	<b>\$3.00</b>
25¢ blue, first type	<b>\$5.00</b>

I really thought we had more, but that's all folks!

## SHEMYA CLUB 365



John Kallman has acquired a quantity of these poker chip type tokens. They are available for \$5 each post-paid from: John Kallman, P.O. Box 122, Sartell, MN 56377



# THE FLORADORA

**AT THE**  
**FLORODORA**  
**CONCERT HALL**

Corner Fourth and Cushman

**Monday, Apr. 23**

**A GRAND**  
**BENEFIT**

*In Aid of the Sufferers of the  
 SAN FRANCISCO DISASTER*

MR. GEO. KRAU, of the Florodora, will CONTRIBUTE the GROSS RECEIPTS of this day's and evening's trade to the RELIEF FUND now being raised in the city of Fairbanks for the suffering and stricken in California. ALL the

**EMPLOYEES and MEMBERS**  
 of the FLORODORA CONCERT HALL  
 Will give their services FREE GRATIS during the evening

**SONGS, DANCING and MUSIC**  
 Will be discoursed during the intervals of dancing by the following well-known artists and members of the FLORODORA CONCERT COMPANY

**MISS FANNIE HALL**  
*The Rightingale of the North*

**MR. VICTOR DURAND**  
*The Incomparable Violin Soloist*

**LOTTIE OATLEY**  
*Buck and Wing Dancer of Excellence*

**BILLY NEWMAN**  
*The Well-Known, in New Songs*

**HAM GREASE JAMES**  
*And then the Great and Only*  
*The World-Wide Known Disseminator of Fun and Humor, with Grease Jokes.*

**And Many Others Too Numerous to Mention**

**REMEMBER** The Entire GROSS RECEIPTS will be given to the Fund Committee. **REMEMBER**

**COME ON BOYS**  
 AND HELP A GOOD CAUSE

**REMEMBER, MONDAY NEXT, APRIL 23rd**

This is the old Floradora,  
 where many and many a time,  
 Hand in hand with the thirsty beauties  
 we've all gone down the line.  
 It's the night of the Frisco Earthquake Fund  
 that most of us recall,  
 And Fancy lands me back again  
 on the floor of the old dance hall.

I whirl through many a juicy waltz  
 with Margie, Kate and Bess,  
 And stake them all to play the wheel  
 with a ten-spot - more or less-  
 I quench the burning thirst they have  
 with cocktails, beer and wine,  
 Till they shake me for some other sport  
 who goes swiftly down the line

I hear the swish of silken skirts  
 and "Ham-Grease" Jimmie's bawl,  
 Watch Lottie Oakley's twinkling feet  
 and listen to Fannie Hall;  
 I see the crowds rush to the bar  
 and hoist their fancy drinks,  
 While I hit the high sport some myself  
 with a bediamon'd little minx.



I slip away at break of day  
 mid strains of music clear,  
 And bursts of songs and laughter  
 running riot in my ear,  
 I linger just outside the door -  
 betwixt'd it seems to me  
 With the lilting strains in frosty air  
 of "Sweet Bessie the Maid of Dundee."



It's hard to forget the old dance hall -  
 its wine and women and song -  
 Where I monkey'd with roulette and blackjack  
 and anything coming along;  
 I often think of that festive night  
 and the rollicking bunch on the floor,  
 When we boosted the Frisco Fund over the top  
 some fifteen hundred more.

So "Here's to the Floradora  
 and the giddy dance hall days -  
 Not forgetting the little fairies  
 with their peculiar ways -  
 Upon their pictur'd faces  
 memory loves to dwell,  
 But as that's all there's to it  
 I may as well say fare well.

From "Poems of Klondyke's Early Days and Alaska's Long White Trail, Fred Crewe, 1921. See Lot # 263 in our April 7th auction.

# **LANSING POST TO BE O'HARRA BUS LINES PRESERVED.**



The CBC reports that the Yukon government and the Na-Cho Nyak Dun have agreed on a management plan to preserve the historic and remote trading post at Lansing Creek.

“We will continue to teach our young people about the importance of this area,” Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation Chief Simon Mervyn said in a statement.

James Mervyn had a trading post at Lansing Creek from 1915 to 1937. He married Julia, a native woman, and they had 11 children.

It is good to see one of his descendants leading the First Nation, and preserving his people's and his family's history.

We have had two articles about Mervyn and Lansing Creek over the years: May, 1989 and April 1999.

## **NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL**

We typed the links for the Newman Numismatic Portal incorrectly last month. They should be:

### **ATC&PN**

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/523362>

### **Alaskan Znachki Bulletin**

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>

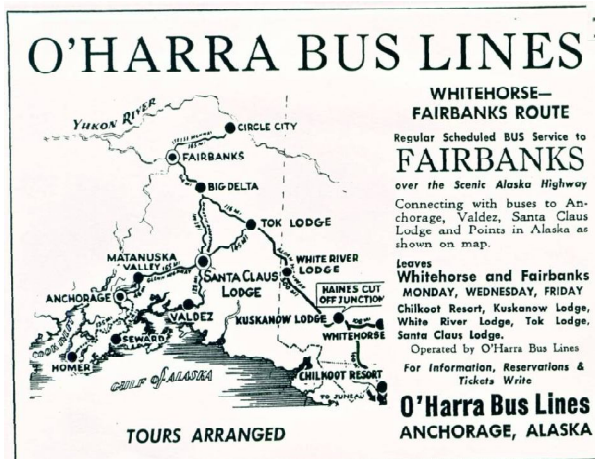
### **Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds**

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524689>

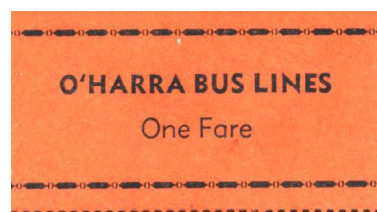
In a couple of places in this issue, we refer you to past issues. If you have not been around that long, they can be found on the NNP.



It is interesting that Ken O'Harra renamed the Gulkana Lodge. Wonder what the folks in Gulkana thought of the name Santa Claus Lodge!



As this ad shows, O'Harra Bus Lines ran an extensive service from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Whitehorse and Haines.



This was probably for a local service in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

For more information on O'Harra Bus Lines, see the following issue of ATC&PN:

August 1996, page 59  
May 1997, page 34 (mis-numbered)  
June 1997, page 42  
May 2004, page 22



# DON'T YOU FEEL SPECIAL - AGAIN!!



The Federated Mint, LLC is at it again! This time it is a "100", 1 oz. .999 fine silver note.

The ad recently appeared in the February 19 issue of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. It is a wonderful example of hucksterism.

To start, it resembles a \$100 Federal Reserve Note, but they are careful to never use the word "Dollars" (except in relation to the price - \$99).

"Remember, this is not legal tender paper money issued by the U.S. Gov't. These historic Alaska State Silver 100's are a magnificent adaptation of the United States Treasury's one hundred dollar Federal Reserve Note. They are the first and only Alaska State Silver 100's struck in high relief .999 solid silver proof finishes released exclusively from the vaults of the private Federated Mint."

They have even trotted out a former Treasurer of the

U.S., Mary Ellen Withrow. "But don't bother calling local banks or credit unions because they can't even get their hands on these never before seen Alaska State Silver 100's," Withrow said.

And after you read all the hype, in small print we find "are highly collectible and not offered for investment purposes." Seems a contradiction to the rest of the advertisement. Playing CYA??

And only Alaska residents can acquire these for \$99. All other must pay double! And the ad is not quite clear. You may have to buy three, a "vault stack," to get the \$99 price.

I don't see any indication as to the dimensions of this "100." I assume (never a good thing) that it is the approximate size of a \$100 bill, and therefore, very thin.

If not so overpriced, this would be a neat product.

# AUCTION TO BE HELD IN FAIRBANKS

## APRIL 7, 2018

**Bids accepted until Noon, April 7 - Auction begins 7:00PM**

**By mail: Alaska Rare Coins, 551-B Second Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701**

**By phone: 907-452-6461 By email - akcoins@mosquitonet.com**

**The complete auction can be viewed on line at: [www.alaskararecoins.com](http://www.alaskararecoins.com)**

## ALASKA TOKENS & MEDALS

ESTIMATE

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 235 | <b>Bethel tokens:</b> Olsen Bros., 25¢, 50¢ and \$1, B-3 a-c, XF or better. Three pieces.   | 25  |
| 236 | <b>Chatanika token:</b> Bingle Fritz, Thomas "Fritz" Welch, 25¢, B-1a. Bi-metal with aluminum center and brass ring. Very worn center obverse. These used to be \$200+ but a family hoard has entered the market. We will lose money on this one.   | 25  |
| 237 | <b>Excursion Inlet tokens:</b> A. & P.S.C. Co. (Astoria & Puget Sound Canning Co.), 5¢ (square), 10¢ (scalloped), and 25¢ (4-lobed), B-1 a-c. All AU or better. An interesting set as it uses the same obverse die for all tokens, the denominations distinguished by shape, not size. Three pieces.  | 25  |
| 238 | <b>Fairbanks tokens:</b> Pioneer Hotel, 10¢ and 25¢, B-45 b-c, XF or better. Interesting tokens when paired with the Ketchikan Pastime Cigar Store tokens below (Lot 242). Two pieces.  | 60  |
| 239 | <b>Hoonah tokens:</b> Icy Straits Salmon Co.: 10¢, 25¢, 50¢ and \$1, B-2 a-d, XF or better. Set of 4 pcs.   | 100 |
| 240 | Hyder tokens: The Bungalow, 25¢ and 50¢, B-2 a-b, AU or better. At the head of the Portland Canal, Hyder is one of the three southeast Alaska towns accessible by road (Skagway and Haines being the other two). It shares many services with its sister city Stewart, BC.  | 35+ |
| 241 | <b>Juneau tokens:</b> Included are Tom George 50¢ and \$1, B-23 a-b; Imperial Pool Parlor, 5¢, B-30a; AH King 50¢, B-42c; and New York Exchange 6¼¢, B-53bI with hole. A nice assortment of tokens, grading from XF to AU. Five pieces.   | 50  |
| 242 | <b>(Ketchikan) tokens:</b> Pastime Cigar Store, set of 3; 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢, B-40 a-c, XF or better. These tokens are mavericks meaning they do not have a city name. Pastime Cigar Store is a common name and there was also one in Fairbanks. Making die comparisons, the 10¢ and 25¢ use the same dies as the Fairbanks Pioneer Hotel tokens (Lot 238). This does not prove that these are from Fairbanks, only that they were made by the same manufacturer. See <i>Alaskan Token Collector &amp; Polar Numismatist</i> , Nov/Dec 2016. Three pieces.   | 30  |
| 243 | <b>Ketchikan tokens:</b> "P" (Pioneer Bar), set of 3; 10, 25 and 100 Points, B-41 a-c, XF or better. Probably used in gambling games in the back room.  | 25  |
| 244 | <b>Skagway tokens:</b> Perry Hern, set of 3 12½¢, B-12a I-III. Affordable tokens, three pieces.   | 25  |
| 245 | <b>Sitka token:</b> R. Witz, 5¢ in trade, B-17a, XF. Witz started in Sitka in 1895. A great old token.  | 80  |
| 246 | <b>\$1 Tokens!</b> Included are Gambell, Reindeer Commercial Co.; Ketchikan T and M Pioneer Pool Hall; Noorvik, Cooperative Store; and Teller, Commercial Co. VF or better, a could with light damage.  | 50  |
| 247 | <b>Alaska-Yukon Pioneers Civic Exposition,</b> Souvenir Season Admittance, Nov. 6-14, 1937, and dedication of Alaska Way, Seattle. A great piece, with "The Sourdough" on the obverse. We don't have any information on this Exposition, but it was held on the 70th anniversary of the purchase of Alaska. Brass, 32mm. AU with light toning. Quite scarce.  | 35+ |
| 248 | <b>The Year of the Flood.</b> In 1967, Fairbanks was devastated by the flood. Included are aluminum and bronze medals commemorating the event. Also included is the Sept. 1, 1967 issue of Life magazine with a 2 page spread on the flood. There are photos of Pioneer Memorial Park under water, so we are also including an A-67 bronze medal of PMP. Also included is a 16 page brochure with Gov. Hickel on the cover, "Alaska's Health and Welfare," November 1967 with information with dealing with the flood. Lastly there is a large map, "Flood of August 1967 at Fairbanks, Alaska" showing what was under water. There are some surprising "high" spots that did not flood. A great assortment of ephemera from the flood. | 50  |



# ALASKA TOKENS & MEDALS, CONT.

ESTIMATE

- 249 **State of Alaska 1 oz. Silver Medals**, 1989-1991. For these first three years only, Alaska Precious Metals had the contract with the state to issue official medals. Doug Lindstrand's popular polar bear design graced the 1989 medal, with a stylized walrus in 1990 and a salmon in 1991. APM went bankrupt soon after the 1991 issue. These are BU examples (incorrectly called Proof-like) and are very nice. The 1990 is an error coin struck partially outside the collar with only partial reeding on parts of the rim. Three pieces. 150-200
- 250 **State of Alaska 1 oz. Silver Medals**, 1993 and 1996. The wolf and caribou are depicted on the obverse respectively. We thought these were BU examples, but the 1993 has a plain edge like the proofs, but has no serial number. Two pieces. 100
- 251 **State of Alaska Fractional Silver Medals**, 2005. Includes (2) 1/20 oz. and (2) 1/10 oz. medals with mintages of 439 and 300 respectively. Designed by Christy Ruby, the obverse depicts a Sitka black tailed deer. Four pieces. 100
- 252 **State of Alaska 1 oz. Gold Medal**, 2002. The design for this year was the Alaska king Crab - a rather radical departure from past issues. Gary Kuchinka of Eagle River did the original art work. Records show that only 130 were struck by the Alaska Mint. All original packaging. 1,600
- 253 **State of Alaska 1/10 oz. Gold Medal**, 2015. The obverse is by Fairbanks artist Steve Cross depicting a cure but rather busy design of a family of polar bears. Only 25 were issued. 200-300
- 254 **Alaska Railroad 1 oz. Gold Medal**, 1985. The State of Alaska purchased the Alaska Railroad in 1985. We had gold and silver medals minted with one of the old diesel engines depicted on the obverse. Only 48 non-sequentially numbered gold medals were minted. This is #17 in the original case. 1,600+
- 255 **University of Alaska Gold & Silver Set, Woolly Mammoth**, made in 1986. The University Museum worked with artist James Behlke and our firm on this project. Behlke completed his artwork and the dies were approved and the medals struck. When the Museum's paleontologists saw the medal, they objected because the Mammoth depicted was the wrong species! Behlke re-did the artwork, a new die was cut and new medals were struck. (100) 1 troy ounce gold medals were authorized, but only 39 were actually struck. Customers could pick their numbers between 1 and 100, so the medals struck are not sequential. Of the 39 struck, 10 were from the original (wrong) dies of which this is one (#63). (290) silver medals were struck from the wrong dies. We do note there is some red spotting that is sometimes seen on pure gold coins (especially the Chinese Pandas). This is a very rare Alaska numismatic item we are pleased to offer. Housed in the original velvet lined case. 1,600-1,800
- 256 **University of Alaska Silver Woolly Mammoth Medals**. This contains one each of the two designs issued (see above). The error medal is #19 (one of 290) and the correct medal is #1188. Both are one troy ounce of silver. Two pieces. 100-200
- 257 **Joe Vogler 1 oz. Silver Medal**. Always popular with a portrait of Joe on the obverse and Alaska flag on the reverse. "Joe was right." 50+
- 258 **Iditarod 1 oz. Silver Medals**, 1996 and 1997. This popular medal program started in 1989, and 1997 was the 25th anniversary of the race. 3,000 were minted in each year, these being numbers 2101 and 480 respectively. Original packaging. Two pieces. 100-200
- 259 **Pioneers of Alaska Convention Medals**. These one ounce silver medals have received a clear-coat on both sides so the medals can be used in jewelry. The clear-coat has yellowed almost making these look gold. Included are: Valdez, 2001; Kenai/Homer, 2003; Juneau, 2004; and Palmer, 2005. Four ounces of silver. 100

# ALASKA COLLECTIBLES

- 260 **Alaska "Senator" Centennial License Plate**, number 27. These style plates with the Chilkoot Pass depicted came out in the last 1990s. "State Senator" is printed on the plate. A great low number issued to a state senator. 100+
- 261 **Collector Buttons**. This is a neat lot that should be examined to be fully appreciated. Included are" 1967 Alaska Purchase Centennial; Iditarod 1987 Woman Wins Red Lantern; Last Great Act of Defiance; Fairbanks Golden Days 1980, 1982; Petersburg Little Norway Festival; Lions District Governor 1975-76; KFAR Goosewatcher '92; Klondike Nat'l Hist. Sites, Dawson City; Clean Up Alaska; Prospector's Monument; Arctic Council. 12 buttons. 75

# ALASKA COLLECTIBLES

ESTIMATE

- 262 **Alaska Life, the Territorial Magazine.** A rival to Alaska Sportsman. We have 8 issues from 1946. Hunting, fishing, history and many advertisements. 8 magazines. 80
- 263 **Alaska Book: Poems of the Klondyke's Early Days and Alaska's Long White Trail,** by Fred Crewe, with photos of the Klondyke Stampede taken 1897-98, copyright 1921. Ex-library of E.L. Bartlett. Bob Barlett was one of our first Senators, the other being Ernest Gruening. The book is horizontal format, 9 inches by 6 inches with a leather cover with gilt lettering and a photo of a dog team. Many photos, most of Dawson, but we note one of a Midnight Sun baseball game in Fairbanks. Quite nice condition, but should be handled with care. 175
- 264 **All-Alaska Review for 1928,** published by the Cordova Daily Times. Large (13½ by 10¼ inches) magazine form of publication, 66 pages. A great item highlighting all areas and facets of Alaska life. Great ads, including canneries. It is packed with photos. Excellent condition except the center pages have separated from the staples 50+
- 265 **Miscellaneous box of Alaskan and other items.** Includes, but not limited to: Cold Regions Science and Engineering - Avalanches; America, Her Grandeur and her Beauty, Alaska and Yukon Terr., part 13, disbound; (3) Alyeska Pipeline brochures; Two Thousand Miles in the Antarctic Ice, 1899; Geologic and Water-Supply Reports on Alaska, 1964; Saturday Evening Post, November 12, 1960, front cover only showing Alaskans and Hawaiians voting for president for the first time; large ad showing the Chilkoot Pass; Honorary Sourdough certificate, Beaver Creek, Yukon 1974; Yukon World newspaper, July 15, 1904, torn, fragile; Soil Survey of Goldstream-Nenana, Alaska 1977. Index to topographic maps of Alaska, 1973; Recollections of Leroy N. McQuesten, Life in the Yukon 1871-1885, reprint from the original, 1952; The School Arts Magazine, Sept. 1931; Bi-monthly Bulletin of the Alaska Bureau of Publicity, April 15, 1920; Annual Reports of the Dept. of Interior, 1901, Gov. of the Territories; US Bureau of Mines, Hydraulicking etc. 1934; (3) different maps of Cook Inlet from Alaska Geographics; Talking Totem, Alaska Airlines in flight magazine, 1970; Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park Junior Ranger brochure; letter to the Bank of British North America, 1910; Souvenir Views of Alaska, postcard size, about 16 pages; All-Alaska Dog Derby tickets (more than 10), 194\_; Explore Alaska's Arctic, Wein Alaska Airlines, 1963 brochure; a stack of non-Alaska postcards, from the early 1900s to the 1990s, mostly foreign (I stopped counting at 50); plus more. Some items have problems. 200+

# ALASKA USGS REPORTS

- 266 **USGS Report: Geology of the Slana-Tok District,** 1938 by Fred Moffit. Paperbound, 54 pages with maps. Excellent condition with minor use-wear. 25
- 267 **USGS Report: Geology of the Chitina Valley and Adjacent Area,** 1938 by Fred Moffit. Paperbound, 137 pages with a lot of charts and maps. Excellent condition with minor use-wear. 50
- 268 **USGS Report: Mineral Industry in Alaska,** by Philip Smith. Four reports for the years 1933, 1934, 1936 and 1939. The first two are without covers, the second two have covers. From 90 to 107 pages each. All in excellent condition. Great research material. Four reports. 100

# MISCELLANEOUS

- 269 **10kt Gold Moose pin/tie tack,** with diamond eyes. An old J.L. Houston product with neat three-dimensional 10kt moose head. The total weight is .125 troy ounces. Today this would retail for about \$250. 150+
- 270 **10kt Gold Mountain Goat pin/tie tack.** Another Houston product with a nice 3-D head. Total weight is .17 troy ounces. New, about \$275. 180+



# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

ALASKA RARE COINS, P.O. BOX 72832, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707 Phone 907 452-6461 email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

**& POLAR NUMISMATIST**

**VOLUME XL, NO. 5, MAY, 2018.**



See page 48

## TOKEN USE IN KOYUKUK

from *Roger Dayton, a biography*  
by Curt Madson and Yvonne Yarber  
for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District  
Hancock House Publishers



We got everything from here for the whole winter. It all had to go on the book. Sometimes the storekeeper here would let our credit run over \$1000. It depends on who you are and where you're trapping. Maybe a few people were over \$2000. But I never heard of anybody going over \$2000 from here.

When you sell your furs to the store and there's something left over after you pay your bill, they never give you cash. Hardly ever. Like this Dominic's store. He had special coins that was good only for his store. They call them bingles. They were from quarter to a dollar and then up to five dollars. This brass bingle that was the size of a quarter was worth five dollars.



The other store they used to call Johnny Evans' used to handle bingles too. And that was only good for his trade. In that way you'd do business with only one store. Finally, they did away with those bingles. They're antiques now.

Dominic's store had everything. General merchandise from little nails, washtubs, traps, shovels, inboard motors and food. Nowadays stores don't handle much of that. Like for dog teams he used to handle webbing, ropes, snaps, rings. Tools, files, hammers, everything he used to handle.

He got into the store business through another storekeeper. He worked for him running the store. Then after he made so much he started his own. That's how he got the business. And you can't beat a kind-hearted man like him. If you're broke or were from someplace else and wanted to go home he'd send you home. He'd help you anytime. Of course sooner or later you'd have to pay him back. And sometimes, well you now how business people are, they like to make extra money. Oh, yeah.

Like during beaver trapping you'd have to watch him measure the beaver. Sometimes he'd pull that tape a little towards him and undersize the



### **HANCOCK HOUSE PUBLISHERS** Yukon-Koyukuk biographies

Oscar Nictune - Alatna  
Joe Beetus - Hughes  
Henry Beatus, Sr. - Hughes  
Frank Tobuk - Bettles  
Madeline Solomon - Koyukuk  
Roger Dayton - Koyukuk  
Edwin Simon - Huslia  
John Honea - Ruby

visit their website  
[www.hancockhouse.com](http://www.hancockhouse.com)

continued on page 43

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I noticed it after I printed the newsletter last month. It was such an obvious mistake (to me). But I had already printed it so I let it ride. If you did not notice a glaring error last month, see the bottom of page 47.

This is another diverse issue. Besides the Koyukuk article, there is information here about the District of Keewatin, Hudson Bay Co., the Pullen House, gold panning in Finland and of course For the Record. Sadly, we report on the passing of George C. Rietzel on page 45.

Milk tokens are offered on page 47, and Skagway saloons on page 49, along with some bronze medals. One ounce silver medals can be found on page 50.

Two very good buys on eBay this month. The Dalby token was a bargain, as was the L. Briers Cigar Store from Dawson. There were some really expensive Hudson Bay Co. tokens that went unsold at prices that would make the most serious Alaska token collector blush.

And there were a couple of tokens from Skeena, BC, up river from Prince Rupert, just south of the Alaska border. These were rather crude, but very interesting. Their opening bids were high and they went unsold. But researching them, the prices were not entirely out of line. These would make an interesting article if any of our BC folks would care to do it, or provide information so that I can put one together.



\* \* \* \* \*

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Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb

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Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Gold & Copper, B-30a	1,150.00*
<b>Chichagoff</b> , Chichagoff Club, 12½¢, B-1b	14.50
<b>Dalby</b> , Joe Notti, 25¢, B-1a	179.50
<b>Juneau</b> , NY Exchange, 6¼¢, B-53I	10.51
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Abercrombie's, 2¢, B-1a	12.50
<b>Platinum</b> , Alaska Traders, 50¢ and \$1, B-1 b,c	281.00
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cI	1,100.00OB*
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cII	850.00OB*
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cII	OB899.99NB
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , Brier's Cigar Store, 25¢, B-5a	275.00
<b>Hudson Bay Co.</b> , St. L/Lab, 10 and 20MB	250.00OB
<b>Anita Garnick</b> , encased cent	12.50
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, potty	75.00OB

\* From a Fred Holabird sale, does not include the 25% buyer's fee.

OB =Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## GOT MILK? (see also page 47)



Milk bottle caps. Included are (3) Creamers Dairy, Kennecott Dairy, Seward Dairy, Nore's Dairy, Anchorage Dairy, Juno Maid, and (2) Bentley's Dairy. Shown at a reduced size. Ten caps for **\$60.00 ppd**

## NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL

For back issues:

**ATC&PN**, Vol. I to Vol. XXX

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/523362>

**Alaskan Znachki Bulletin**, all issues

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>

**Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds**, all issues

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524689>



## KOYUKUK TOKENS, cont.



beaver that way by one or two inches. But some people used to get the best of him and hold the tape about two or three inches on their side.

But then he'd never let you down. He was the only man I know of that would never let you down. If he knows you're stuck or broke or just passing through he'd help you. And he'd watch you at the same time to see if you done good trapping. He'd see to it that you used your money to buy your stuff. He won't give you too much credit if you have money.

And if you did good with beavers he'd make sure you paid your store bill. Then whatever extra you would leave in the store. He'd be careful to give you just so much cash in later years when they did away with those bingles. But like I said, he would help you anytime.



This guy Joe Notti used to have a little store up Koyukuk River (ed. note - Dalby). He handled them bingles too. I heard he had a fifty cent piece. He was offered a thousand dollars for it but wouldn't sell it. So whoever got them now is worth a lot of money. (Ed. Note: See ATC&PN November 1998).

There are two other articles in ATC&PN on Dominic Verneti: March 1992 and April/May 2003.



Editor's Note: Another trader on the Koyukuk River was Mike Laboski.

Koyukuk is located on the Yukon River near the junction with the Koyukuk River. The Koyukuk River heads in the Brooks Range, flowing southwest for 425 miles before joining the Yukon. The headwaters of the Koyukuk are prime gold mining territory.

## VERNETTI TOKENS FOR SALE



**KOYUKUK:** D. Verneti, set of 6; 12½¢, 25¢ (holed), 50¢, 1\$, 5\$ and 10\$. One set only as shown.

**\$195.00 postpaid**



## DISTRICT OF KEEWATIN

In the April 2013 issue, we showed you a trade dollar from Cullaton Lake Gold Mines, which is located in that portion of Nunavut, Canada that used to be part of Northwest Territories, that used to be the District of Keewatin. I mentioned a puzzle map I had as a kid that showed the arctic districts of the then Northwest Territories - MacKenzie, Keewatin and Franklin.

Well...ta-da!!! Below is the portion of that puzzle map that shows arctic Canada from Yukon east to Hudson Bay.

If you look at the political subdivisions of Canada from 1867 forward, you will find interesting changes through the years. The Districts of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Athabaska eventually became the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The District of Manitoba was quite small, but became the Province of Manitoba by lopping off the southern part of the District of Keewatin.



through its wholly owned subsidiary Alberta & Arctic Transportation Co., whose flagship was the S.S. Distributor (see for the record).



Another district of the Northwest Territories on the eastern side of Hudson Bay that predates this puzzle map, Ungava, was absorbed by Quebec. A couple Hudson Bay tokens are attributed to Ungava Bay by



The Cullaton Lake Mines trade dollar is one of only a few numismatic items from Keewatin. Lamson & Hubbard Canadian Company, issued tokens at Baker Lake. (see ATC&PN January 1991).

The LHCC was a competitor to the Hudson Bay Co. They also provided river transportation services

Larry Gingras in his book "Medals Tokens and Paper Money of the Hudson's Bay Company."



# GEORGE C. RIETZEL



George C. Rietzel  
As I best remember him

Before coming to Alaska, I was in contact with a coin dealer operating under the name of G&H Enterprises. They issued a large price list of world coins, which was my interest at the time (he also had Alaska token price lists, which was not of interest at the time). After receiving a number of lists, and not placing an order, I received a list rubber stamped (and that rubber stamp is around here some place) "last list unless we hear from you." I sent a letter saying that I would still like to receive the lists. I think by that time my fiancée and I were planning on moving to Alaska after we were married.

We arrived in Fairbanks in August of 1974. My wife had graduated from the University of Maine, and I was doing my senior year "away" at UAF, finishing my degree in Physical Education. After moving into our apartment on the UAF campus, one of my first stops was to this store.

It was in the basement of the now derelict Polaris Hotel. Finding it was a bit of a challenge, with all the hallways down there. It was then that I met George C. Rietzel. One of the first things he said to me was that I was the only person that didn't take the hint (order something, or else...), and requested to continue receiving his price lists.

Shortly thereafter, I started working part-time for George. Thus began my indoctrination into the coin business.

George moved his store from the basement of the Polaris Hotel to the corner of 2nd and Noble. It was a short-lived move, as a water pipe burst. George asked for a break in the rent, and the landlord said no, and he was going to raise the rent. It did not take George long to move out of there, and into a space at 208 Lacey Street.

In 1976, George and family moved to Honolulu and opened another coin shop. I took over the shop in Fairbanks.

In those short two years, George started me on the road to what would be my profession for 40+ years. He introduced me to Alaska tokens, which has become the focus of my numismatic career.

Shortly after he left for Hawaii, we lost touch. I was not to see him again until 2002. He had left the coin business and returned to the air transportation industry, which had originally brought him to Fairbanks.

He and wife Pat arrived in Fairbanks for an all too short visit. I think the memories, and thinking about what might have been had he stayed was just too much. George's heart was always in Alaska. They drove back to Kentucky where George had worked for UPS.

Not long thereafter, George and Pat moved to Florida. The last time I saw him was when Jan and I made a trip to Miami where our daughter was going to Florida International University. We got out of Miami as quickly as possible and visited with George and Pat in Venice. We did a much better job staying in touch after this time.

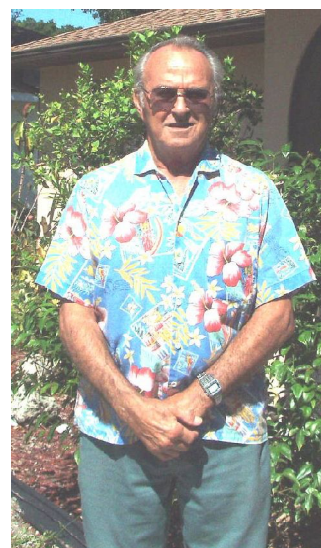
George's and Pat's health had not been good for several years. Pat passed away October 15, 2017.

George had several bouts of lung cancer, but the last surgery he had this year apparently was successful. But there was nothing they could do for the COPD.

George passed away about March 26. We got word from his son, Michael. I told him the impact George had on me. Had he not left Alaska, I would have pursued a teaching career (I did teach for one year). If I had not taken over the store, I would either be retired now with a good pension, or I would be in jail, having killed a kid. The latter is more likely, so George saved me from doing extended jail time.

Without George, I would not be sitting here typing this. So you can blame him or thank him!

I am hoping Michael finds the book his dad was supposedly working on detailing his flying exploits (I believe he was a flight engineer). It seems that George had done some flying that may have been "clandestine."



George  
Way to civilized

# GOLD PANNING IN FINLAND - REALLY??

When searching eBay, I will occasionally search the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland) for medals. There is just something about the style of their medallic art that appeals to me. Yes, they have the standard fare of very realistic medals, but others are less realistic, with pleasing lines.

I happened upon this medal. The obverse of the medal has a gold panner, and the legend Ivalojoen Kultala-1870. The reverse has a river scene and cabins. The medal is bronze, 45mm.



by Kaarina Luukkonen, 1974

There was a gold rush in Lapland (that far northern portion of Finland) in 1870 on the Ivalojoeki at the confluence of the Ivalojoeki and the Sotajoki.

The State, then the Grand Duchy of Finland, then part of Imperial Russia, built Kultala Crown Station village to control the gold digging and gold trade. It has now been restored as an historical tourist attraction.

Ivalojoeki was pretty much abandoned by the 1880s. Such is the fate of most gold rushes. Others followed. This is memorialized in Tankavaara Gold Mining Village with a gold mining museum and other attractions.

With all the other more famous gold rushes, and continuous gold mining around the world, one would never expect that the World Gold Panning Championships got their start and are still headquartered in Finland. The first modern gold panning competition was held in Finland in 1974. The first World Gold

\* \* \* \* \*



Panning Championship was held in Tankavaara, Finland in 1977.

The location changes from year to year. It was in Dawson, Yukon in 1984, 1990, 1996, 2007 and will return in 2021. Last year, 2017, it was in Moffat, Scotland (I actually have placer gold from Scotland - check out eBay UK), and this year it will be held in Slovakia



Post card submitted by J.D. Williams.

## PULLEN HOUSE

I can't believe we are in our 40th year, and this is the first appearance for the Pullen House!

B-22a, One meal, black on blue cardboard, 38mm.





## APRIL 7 AUCTION

Lot	Price Realized
235 Bethel tokens	20mb*
236 Chatanika token	32
237 Excursion Inlet tokens	30mb*
238 Fairbanks tokens	35mb*
239 Hoonah tokens	65
240 Hyder tokens	44
241 Juneau tokens	30
242 Ketchikan Pastime tokens	26mb*
243 Ketchikan "P" tokens	28
244 Skagway tokens	26mb
245 Sitka token	45
246 \$1 tokens	45
247 Alaska-Yukon Pioneers medal	35mb*
248 Year of the Flood	70
249 State of AK medals 1889-91	120
250 State of AK medals, 1993, 1996	85
251 State of AK fractional medals	80
252 State of AK 1 oz. gold medal	1,550mb*
253 State of AK 1/10oz. gold medal	250mb*
254 AK Railroad gold medal	1,450
255 UofA Mammoth gold & silver	1,600mb*
256 UofA Mammoth silver medals (2)	110
257 Joe Vogler medal	60
258 Iditarod medals 1996, 1997	55
259 Pioneers of AK medals	75mb
260 AK license plate	65
261 Collector buttons	25
262 Alaska Life magazine	100
263 Poems of Klondyke's Early Days	130
264 All Alaska Review 1928	70
265 Misc. box of Alaskana	235
266 USGS Slana-Tok	40mb*
267 USGS Chitina	55mb*
268 USGS Mineral Industry in AK (4)	40
269 10kt Gold moose pin	90
270 10kt Gold mountain goat pin	115

mb = sold to a mail bidder \* = reduced bid  
Total savings by bid reductions - \$554

## FLOR (I) (A) (O) DORA

Spelled many ways, the Floridora token is attributed to Dawson (I purchased my specimen in Carmacks, Yukon). But the ad places the Floradora of this poem at 4th and Cushman, in Fairbanks! Since the poetry book was "Klondyke" I just assumed it was Dawson.

## GOT MILK?



Anchorage Dairy 1 pint, B-7a



\$45.00



Anchorage Dairy, 1 quart, B-7b



\$8.00



(Fairbanks): Creamer's Dairy, 1 quart, B-13b \$5.00



Fairbanks Public Schools, Milk B-18a



\$8.00



Juneau Douglas Schools, 1/2 Pint, B-34a



\$8.00



Juneau Douglas Schools, 1/2 Pint, B-34b



\$8.00

The school milk tokens may be lightly damaged. You know how kids are...

**Prices are postpaid.**

## FOR THE RECORD



**YUKON RIVER**, Detroit Boat, Manufacturers of high grade canoes. 38mm, bronze. This was on the front page of the February issue - "see page 16" but it was bumped. A Google search turns up two more "name plates" and a nice add.



**HOMER**: Waterfront Bar (seahorse), good for \$2.75 drink, oldest bar in town. Black on wood.

**(ANCHORAGE)**: AK (The Homestead). Gold AK on red, with white inserts. Illegal gambling chip. There were many around, and they are impossible to positively attribute. The eBay seller (dunnerk) is reputable, and has been in Alaska "forever." (PR-\$22.50).



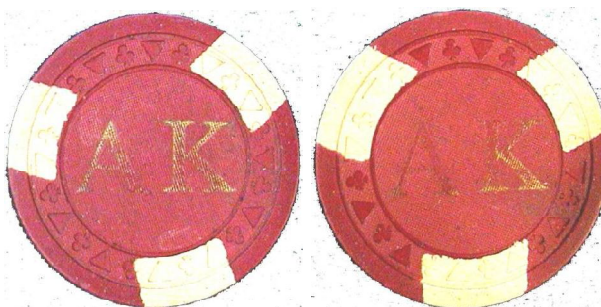
**ALASKA OCS** (Outer Continental Shelf): Shell Exploration and Production, Shell Alaska Ventures, Summer 2009, Ice Class Anchor Handler. 1 oz. silver.



**MARDI GRAS** token, 1976. Shufflers Carnival Club, 1966. Alaska 49th with Eskimo, seal and igloo, 1976. About 40mm, aluminum.



**FORT SIMPSON, NWT**: 2003, Celebrating 200 years of commerce, S.S. Distributor / 1803 Fort at the Forks, Hudson's Bay Company circa 1830. Presumably 1 ounce silver with gold relief (submitted by Dave Phillips).





## SKAGWAY SALOONS

(and a Beer Parlor!)



Idaho Saloon, set of 3: 10¢, 12½¢ and 25¢.

B-14, a-c.

**\$70.00**



Mascotte Saloon, 5¢, B-17a

**\$75.00**



Mascot Saloon, 12½¢, B-17c

**\$45.00**



Seattle Saloon, 12½¢, B-23a

**\$95.00**



Shamrock Beer Parlor, 12½¢, B-24a

**\$45.00**

We have duplicates of these in stock, so the token you receive may not be the one illustrated.

**PRICES ARE POSTPAID**

## BRONZE MEDALS FOR SALE

All Alaska Mint products.



**Fur Rendezvous, 2006. State seal reverse. \$8.00**



**Fur Rendezvous, 2007, with Anchorage reverse, Mark Begich, Mayor \$12.00**



**Rondy Tournament of Champions, 2008. Polar Bear playing poker. \$10.00**



**Diamond Lynx (High School), Class of '84, 25th Anniversary (2009), engraved on Happy Holidays medal. \$12.00**

**PRICES ARE POSTPAID.**



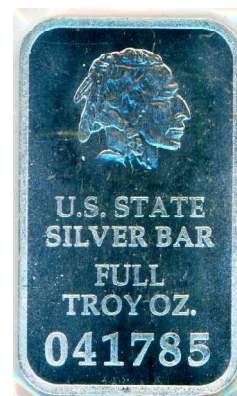
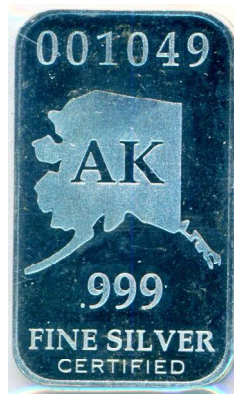
# ALASKA 1 OZ. SILVER, AS PRICED, POSTPAID



Gold Panner with nugget.



\$35.00



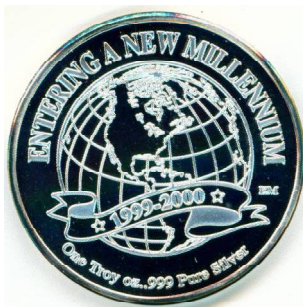
Alaska State Silver Bar (see February, page 16)  
in original packaging, not scuffed \$40.00



Alaska Eagle. Reverse has an epoxy coating for use  
in jewelry, making it look gold \$28.00



Fairbanks Daily News -  
Miner Christmas silver bar,  
undated. \$30.00



Entering a new Millennium, 1999/2000. \$35.00



Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Christmas silver  
round, 2005. \$30.00



Fairbanks: Three Dragons Martial Arts \$45.00



Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Christmas silver  
round, 2007 \$30.00







See page 57

## ALASKA'S NATIVE COPPER TOKENS

Alaska's native copper tokens enjoy a high level of popularity among Alaska token collectors. Several factors play into this popularity. In general, they are larger and thicker (more substantial) than other Alaska tokens. Several are pictorial, which is rare in Alaska tokens. And they represent an industry that was extremely important to Alaska in the first half of the 20th century.

The area of issuance of these tokens centers on the copper mining region of Alaska, namely the Prince William Sound (of Exxon Valdez fame).

The largest and longest lived copper mine was the Kennecott copper mine near McCarthy. The Copper River and Northwestern Railway (CR&NW Ry) was built to service the mine and haul copper ore to Cordova. The first ore was delivered in 1911, and the last train out was in 1938. Sadly, neither mine nor railroad issued tokens\*.

The mine did have a dairy, and the railroad had a brass ID check.



On the rail line to Kennecott is the village of Chitina. It was a boom town when there was copper mining and prospecting going on. Now, it is nearly a ghost town, a sharp turn in the road if you are driving to McCarthy. From Chitina on, the drive is over the old rail bed.

McCutchen & Griffiths issued a 12½¢ native copper token for their saloon in Chitina. Sadly, the die sinker made couple mistakes. The correct names should be McCutcheon and Griffith. The name of the saloon is shown as Navada. Should that have been Nevada? Pronounced "Chitna", the die sinker got the spelling of Chitina correct! (B-4a).



As Cordova was the terminus of the CR & NW Railway, it is not surprising to find a native copper token from there. J.W. Little issued a 12½¢ token for his saloon. (B-22a).

J.W. Little got around, operating other saloons (with tokens) in Valdez and Ellamar, but only his saloon on LaTouche Island also had a native copper token. LaTouche Island, in Prince William Sound was the site of many short-lived copper mines. (B-2a).

\* see page 55

continued on page 53

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month I present an article on the Native Copper tokens. This originally appeared in Coin News (in the UK). I figured why not recycle it! I have made a few corrections, and expanded it a bit. Hopefully there is some new information of which you are not aware.

I give a rather long presentation on the large, 3.5 inch bronze medals I had made in the early 80s. These are the largest and heaviest Alaska medals ever made. I believe the dies for these started out life as dies for souvenir ashtrays.

A Mishler Alaska-Hawaii gold medal was offered at \$4,500 or best offer, and was sold for an unknown best offer. A complete set of the AK-HI medals was offered at \$9,800 and went unsold. Also, a set of Philadelphia Mint Alaska Purchase Centennial medals in platinum, silver and bronze sold for the opening bid of \$4,000.

Articles scheduled for upcoming issues include Keewalik/Candle and Skeena, B.C.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL

For back issues:

**ATC&PN**, Vol. I to Vol. XXX

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/523362>

**Alaskan Znachki Bulletin**, all issues

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>

**Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds**, all issues

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524689>

\* \* \* \* \*

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Canadian Correspondent - vacant

Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb

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United States	\$30 per year
Canada	\$35 per year
Elsewhere	\$40 per year
PDF via email	\$20 per year
Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Chena</b> , B&K, 12½¢, B-1a	52.10
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lucky Spot, 10¢, B-32b	9.99OB
<b>Kwiguk</b> , Alstrom, \$1, B-1c	6.95
<b>Kwiguk</b> , Alstrom, \$10, B-1e (triangular)	18.51
<b>Nenana</b> , Nenana Trading Co., 50¢, B-1c	669.95*
<b>(Nome)</b> , (2) Alaska, Lead Pencil, B-2a	24.00BIN
<b>Nome</b> , Board of Trade, 12½¢, B-8eII	169.11
<b>Nome</b> , Board of Trade, 12½¢, B-8g	BIN550.00DNS
<b>Nome</b> , Imperial Cigar Store, no denom. B-28a	110.38
<b>Platinum</b> , Alaska Traders, 50¢, B-1b	OB250.00NB
<b>Platinum</b> , Alaska Traders, \$1, B-1c	OB250.00NB
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, round	64.00
<b>Mishler</b> , AK-HI gold medal, HK-528	BIN4,500?BOA
<b>Mishler</b> , AK-HI medal, HK532 ANACS-63	183.50
<b>AK Purchase Centennial</b> , 3 medal set by Philadelphia Mint, platinum, silver and bronze.	4,000.00OB



**Yukon**, Chauffer Badge, size not known 119.64

\* - not on eBay

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIP



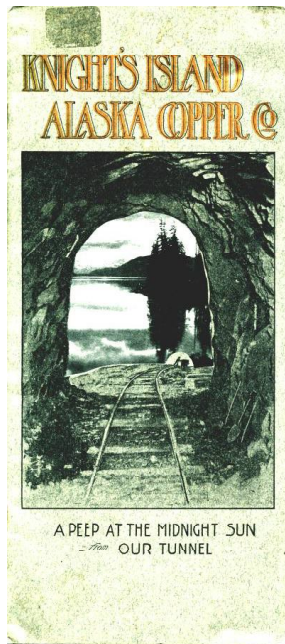
I missed this one last month for the WGPC in Dawson, 1996! One ounce silver with gold relief.



# ALASKA'S NATIVE COPPER TOKENS, cont.



Another island in Prince William Sound that was home to several copper mines was Knight Island. There are no known tokens, but there is a copper stock holder's medal for the Knight Island Copper Co. issued out of Valdez. Many had similar names as shown by the stock and prospectus. (B-11a).



Valdez was a center of commerce for Prince William Sound, so it is not surprising that there are native copper tokens from here also. There are two different 12½¢ native copper tokens from the Copper Block Buffet. One states "Trade Check" (B-4a), while the other is "In Trade" (B-4b). These have nice pictorial views of Valdez. This was substantially changed by



the 1964 earthquake and tidal wave.



Further out, but still in the region is Tonsina, on the road heading north out of Valdez, just before the turn-off for Chitina. Tonsina Roadhouse, owned by Jake Nafsted, provided services (meals, rooms, stables) to travellers on the trail from Valdez into the interior. This 12½¢ token is small than the rest at only 21mm. (B-1a).



On the east side of the Kenai Peninsula, Seward was also a commercial center for Prince William Sound. The Northern (saloon) had several pictorial 12½¢ native copper tokens. The oval token type is the scarcest (B-8a).



There are several varieties of the round token, distinguishable by the lettering on the obverse and reverse, and the landscape on the obverse (B-8b).

# ALASKA'S NATIVE COPPER TOKENS, cont.



Seward was also devastated by the 1964 earthquake and tidal wave.



The Canteen Bar (B-10a) in Anchorage is a late comer to the native copper token group, dating from the 1940s. It does not fit the profile of the other native coppers, but is listed here because it is a pictorial native copper. There is a reproduction of this piece, circa 1971, with a curved base 2.



This odd piece appears to be struck from the same dies but without "Native Copper" and "¢". Upon close examination, it appears that these have been skillfully removed, and the token has been holed.



And finally, there is a very special token, really a souvenir piece, from Anchorage. It states "native virgin gold & copper" with a gold nugget in the center. It was issued by Walter A. Lord Co. about 1923. It highlights Alaska's resources: gold, copper, coal, fish, lumber, dairy, live stock and agriculture. (B-30a).

## LETTERING VARIETIES ON SEWARD B-8b

This is not necessarily the easiest way to distinguish between the varieties, but it does show variations in the die-sinker's ability.



**B-8bI:** This variety is interesting in that the up-stroke on the A's makes it look like the Greek delta. The up-stroke on the "V" is also curved. The large R's look like a P with an added down-stroke. The small R is normal.



**B-8bII:** This is the variety with the die break on the N in Native. This is an early state, and the break is a fine line and does not show up in the scan. This die looks to have been re-worked, with remnants of letters behind the T, a faint C between E and C and an R under the second P, among others. This also has an oversized comma.



**B-8bIII:** Larger, blocky letters. Not much to see here!

**B-8bIV:** I do not have a specimen to illustrate.



## NATIVE COPPER TOKENS FOR SALE

No images as copper is tough to scan. The scans in the article were highly doctored to make them viewable. Please read the descriptions. Your satisfaction is guaranteed and any not satisfactory can be returned.

### ANCHORAGE

Canteen Bar, 12½¢, B-10a, AU with traces of luster	65.00
As above, XF	50.00
As above, XF, cleaned	45.00
Copy or restrike, copy scratched in sky	10.00

### CHITINA

Navada Bar, 12½¢, B-4a, Fine, some old scratches	100.00
--	--------

### LATOUCHE

J.W. Little, 12½¢, B-2a, VF-EF	125.00
--------------------------------	--------

### SEWARD

The Northern, 12½¢, B-8a, VF clnd.	175.00
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bI, XF	65.00
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bII, XF	45.00
The Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII, XF	45.00

### TONSINA

Jake Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a, AU	40.00
------------------------------	-------

### VALDEZ

Copper Block Buffet, 12½¢ Trade Check, B-4a, XF	60.00
(Copper Block) Buffet, 12½¢, XF-AU	60.00
As above, VF cleaned	40.00
As above, reverse planed off	10.00

### DAWSON, YUKON



Hutton & Pearce, 2 (horse bits), B-13a, EF, dark (image lightened)	135.00
(OK, not a native copper, but it is a neat token and it is copper)	

## FOR THE RECORD



**NORTHERN NAVIGATION CO.:** Str. Michael, N.N. Co. flag. Brass, 21mm (submitted by J.W. Terrill).



**NORTHERN NAVIGATION CO.:** Str. Michael, N.N. Co. flag. aluminum, 21mm.

**Editor's Note:** There is no record of a Str. Michael. Google searches that turn up a "Str. Michael" appear to be errors in the OCR (optical character recognition) used by the websites to read the text of newspapers. Likely a die cutter's error.

These tokens were reported by different sources.



**KODIAK:** Buskin River Inn, For Replay Only, No Cash Value. About 25mm, brass.

## COPPER RIVER RAILROAD CO.



While the Copper River & Northwestern Railway did not have tokens, its predecessor, Copper River Railroad Co. did (B-7b)

## DIES, ASHTRAYS AND MEDALS



All of these die designs appear to be based upon contemporary post cards.

I had 3.5 inch (90mm) uniface bronze medals struck by Medallie Art Co. of Danbury, CT from the first four. Only 100 of each were struck. Because of rising costs, I did not have medals made from the remaining dies.



About 1979, I purchased several dies that were made by Meyer Bros. in Seattle. I have come to the conclusion that because of the tooling, they were intended for souvenir ashtrays. Include in this group of dies were the following:

On the White Pass & Yukon Railroad  
Skagway, Alaska  
White Horse Rapids  
Alaskan Express (dog team)  
The Old Greek Church, Sitka, Alaska  
Wrangell, Alaska  
Petersburg, Alaska  
Taku Glacier near Juneau, Alaska



After striking the first three in uniface bronze, I was going to pair the White Pass & Yukon die with the Skagway and White Horse Rapids dies. The latter two dies had been returned to me, but I left the White Pass die with Medallie Art Co. for future use. This was a mistake as Medallie Art Co. filed for bankruptcy, and I lost the die. I keep waiting for it to pop up in a national auction in the hopes that I can re-acquire it.

The White Pass & Yukon medal sold out within a month, leaving me to regret committing to only 100 medals. We have been fortunate, and we have purchased a few back, and have them available.



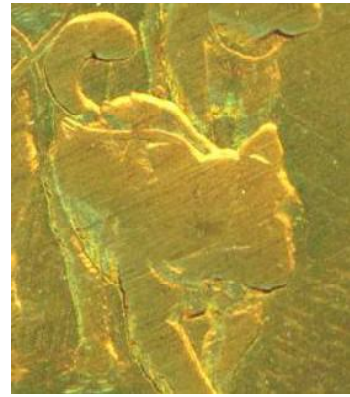
## DIES, ASHTRAYS AND MEDALS, cont.



**Blank**



**First Strike**



**First Strike  
Dog Face**



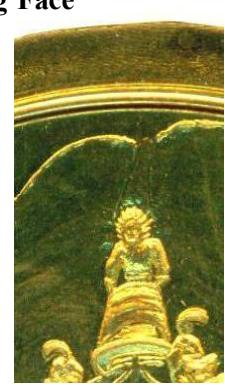
**Second Strike  
Dog Face**



**Third Strike  
Dog Face**



**Fourth Strike  
Dog Face**



**Fourth Strike  
Showing Rim**

When I had the Alaskan Express (dog team) medals made, I had Medallic Art Co. produce a "process set." This is composed of a sample of each step in the production, from blank to finished product.

On this page you can see the progression of strikes. I have a note stating "6th strike." This is perhaps correct, but the differences between these are so minimal to make them indistinguishable. I have focused in on the lead dog's face because I think this is where the differences are the most pronounced.

By the final strike (be it 4th or 6th), there is a pronounced edge sticking out from what will be the final rim. The original weight of the blank was 11.68 troy ounces. After trimming, the medal weighs about 9.99 troy ounces.

In the next process, this protrusion is taken off, and edge marking applied. There are two finishes applied before the surfaces are treated to reveal the final finish.



The die that struck this and the other medals had an angular edge coming down from the face of the die. This lead me to believe that these dies were originally for souvenir ashtrays.

## DIES, ASHTRAYS AND MEDALS, cont.



The odd duck out of this assortment of dies was the Taku Glacier die. It was not the normal format. And this sold the idea that these were for souvenir ashtrays. It is a large chunk of steel, with the design in the center, with bevelled edges and a flat area for the lip of the ashtray to be formed.

Now in all these years, I had never seen an ashtray made from these dies. Not good sellers? An idea that never came to fruition? (Ed. Note: a search of back issues indicates that I had seen a Taku Glacier ashtray).

Finally, this month (April 2018) a seller on eBay offered a copper tray with the Taku Glacier design. It was for sale by one of my favorite eBay sellers - dunnerk. A local couple, they offer neat Alaska stuff and are totally trustworthy. Besides, I don't have to pay shipping. They deliver when they come to town.

To say I was excited is an exaggeration. It takes a lot more than a copper ashtray to get me going (like a Yukon token I don't have). But here was an opportunity to pair a product with the die. I bid liberally and got it for the opening bid (\$3.99). Perhaps when made, it was no more popular than it was now!



## DIES, ASHTRAYS AND MEDALS, cont.



But it is a nice tray, with good patina. But wait, what's that?

Stamped on underside of the rim (not real legible in the photo) is "Made in Japan." Really? Come on. How is that possible? These dies date back to 1910 - 1920. And I purchased the dies in Seattle. Certainly the dies did not go to Japan and come back.



The only explanation I can come up with is that a souvenir maker had the design copied and produced in Japan, presumably in the 1950s.

So, my quest continues for an ashtray made from any of these dies.

We do have examples of the four medals available. These are massive bronze medals, sample weights given in ( ).

On the White Pass & Yukon Railroad (6.95 troy oz.) - **\$225**

Skagway, Alaska harbor scene (10.78 troy oz.) - **\$50**

White Horse Rapids (10.79 troy oz.) - **\$50**

Alaskan Express (9.99 troy oz.) - **\$100**

**Prices are postpaid.**



# ONE OUNCE SILVER, AS PRICED, POSTPAID



**Alaska Gold Rush Centennial, 1997, with gold nugget.** By Commemorative Designs, Anchorage. Limited to 10,000 (wishful thinking!). **\$40.00**



**Metlakatla:** Metlakatla Centennial Celebration, 1887-1987. 1 oz. not marked, but tests .999 silver. Annette Island is the only Native American Reservation in Alaska. **\$40.00**



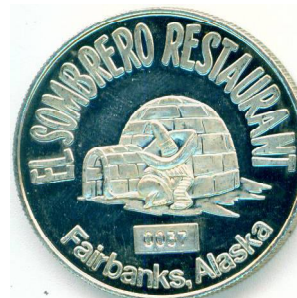
**Alaska Mint Gold Panner, 1995, with gold nugget.** **\$35.00**



**Alaska Railroad, Artist Series, 1991.** Light scuffing. **\$30.00**



**Alaska Mint Moose, 2000, gold relief** **\$40.00**



**Fairbanks: El Sombrero Restaurant.** Light scuffing. **\$30.00**



**Evergreen Mint Moose, no date, gold relief** **\$35.00**



**Fairbanks: Hey Earl! Par Three Classic, 2002.** Light scuffing. **\$30.00**



# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

ALASKA RARE COINS, P.O. BOX 72832, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707 Phone 907 452-6461 email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

& POLAR NUMISMATIST

VOLUME XL, NO. 7, AUGUST, 2018.



See page 67

## ROBERT CUNNINGHAM & SON SKEENA (PORT ESSINGTON), B.C.

by Ronald Greene

originally published in Numismatica Canada, 2009



S4760a  
copper



S4760d  
brass



S4760e  
copper



H3410a  
copper



H3410d  
brass



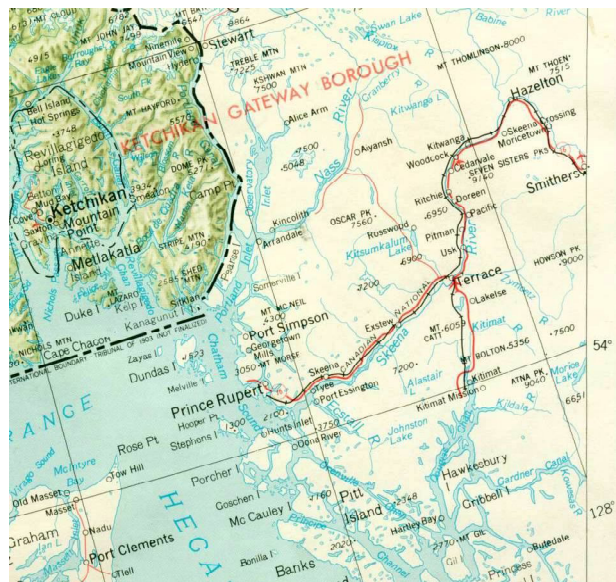
H3410f  
brass

The tokens of Robert Cunningham & Son are amongst the earliest tokens issued in British Columbia. In the absence of any banking facilities within days of travel, tokens were instituted on the Skeena River by both the Hudson's Bay Company and R. Cunningham & Son, some time in the 1890s.<sup>1</sup> Cunningham's tokens were crudely made in denominations of 25 cents, 50 cents and \$1.00. They measure 19, 23 and 29mm in diameter respectively. They are known in varying thicknesses, in copper and in brass, evidence that they were made on site from scrap or available materials. The words "Skeena, B.C." are not always clearly legible. The pieces are incuse, not deeply struck and usually dark. They neither rub nor photograph well. The tokens used at the Hazelton branch were counterstamped with an "H."

Long after the tokens were retired one visitor reported being allowed to take a handful of tokens from the barrels in which they were stored.<sup>2</sup> The report said that there were three barrels, but having only two hands he took some 50 cent pieces and some \$1.00 pieces. Today, the 25 cent pieces are the scarcest. The tokens were later said to have been dumped in the bay.

Robert Cunningham was born at Tullyvalley, Tyrone, Ireland in 1837. After attending school he entered Islington College, the Church of England Missionary College in London, where he studied for 3 years.

In 1862 he was sent out to British



continued on page 63

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This month we focus on that part of British Columbia that is a stone's throw from the southern-most point in Alaska. Items in this newsletter can all be located on the map on the front page!

Our thanks go to Ron Greene for his article on the Cunningham tokens. I saw these crude tokens on eBay and found them very interesting. I like crude. I put out a request, and Ron Greene provided an article he had written years ago.

Thanks also to our wooden nickel guy, David Phillips for his non-wooden article on the Kitimat Alcan and other medals. I never realized that it was so close to Alaska until I was looking for Port Essington and Skeena, and Kitimat was right there. Dave was kind enough to put together this article on short notice. He has direct knowledge of the project, having worked there in the early 50s.

I hope you do not object too much that I strayed from the "path" this issue! I will get back to more Alaskan topics next issue. As is obvious by now, July was one of my two months off from the newsletter this year. The next issue will be a September/October issue in late September. It will also have the Alaska lots from our October auction.

My wife will be touring Scotland this Aug/Sept, and she is extending her planned trip by two weeks (such a hardship) so I can meet her in London for CoinEx and the next weekend for Token Congress.

\* \* \* \* \*

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PDF via email	\$20 per year
Both mail and PDF	\$40 per year

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Club Card Room, 25¢, B-12c	OB425.00*
<b>Cape Newenham</b> , 794th ACW 25¢+\$1 B-1e+i	22.29
<b>Fairbanks/Eielson</b> , AK Coachways, B-T1a	32.00
<b>Fairbanks/Ladd/UAF</b> , AK Coachways, B-T1b	5.76
<b>Indian Mt.</b> , 708 NCO OM, 5,10,25¢, \$1, B-1abce	21.61
<b>Indian Mt.</b> , 708 NCO OM, 5¢, 10¢+\$1, B-1abe	11.60
<b>Indian Mt.</b> , 708 NCO OM, 5¢, B-1 unl., alum.	8.29
<b>Indian Mt.</b> , 708 NCO OM, 25¢+\$1, B-ce	20.39
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Scoug's, 25¢, B-56b	5.00OB
<b>Kodiak</b> , USNAB, Carp. Local, B-15a	66.00
<b>Seward</b> , Up+Up, Holben, 12½¢, B-18a	OB100.00NB
<b>Seward</b> , "W", 5¢, B-19a	169.11
<b>Sparrevohn</b> , 719 ACW, 5¢, 10¢+\$1, B-1abj	15.79
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, 12½¢TC, B-4a	35.00OB
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , Kilgore & Landahl, B-14a	74.25BIN

\* auction ended early, sold as BOA

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## \$299.95 POORER



We don't know who bumpm's (eBay user name) latest victim was, but they have wasted nearly \$300 on a fraudulently mis-attributed maverick token. If it was one of our readers, have I not warned you enough?



## BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Someone paid \$100 for another mis-attributed to Alaska maverick from the same seller!

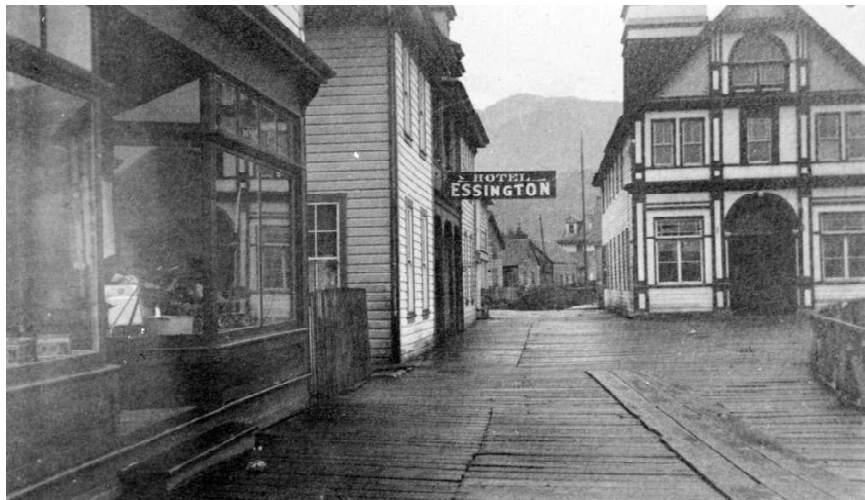


## R. CUNNINGHAM & SON, CONT.

Columbia as a lay teacher. Arriving in Victoria in September that year he studied the native language and assisted the Reverend Cridge. After about six months he was sent north to assist Reverend William Duncan at Metlakatla. Here he stayed for two years, but left and joined the Hudson's Bay Company. Cunningham married a native woman, Elizabeth Ryan in 1864, and according to one source was dismissed from the Missionary Society but all other sources say he abandoned missionary work. Cunningham stayed with the HBCo for five years, two of which he had charge of a post on the Nass River and three years at Port Simpson. In 1869 he and another employee, Manson<sup>3</sup> were asked to explore a route from the Stikine River to Dease Lake. At Dease they found indications of gold. Cunningham passed this information on to a number of miners which led to the first gold mining in the Cassiar District. He left the company the same year in a dispute over pay. He felt that he was worthy of a raise, but was only offered a "gratuity" which to his mind was insufficient.<sup>4</sup>

In the spring of 1870, after leaving the Hudson's Bay company he entered a partnership with Thomas Hankin, another former HBCo employee. They started shipping goods into the Omineca from a store they built at Woodcock Landing. They prospered and Hankin opened a branch at Hazelton. After a year at Woodcock Landing, Cunningham abandoned the site and pre-empted property on the Skeena River at Port Essington where he established a trading post.<sup>5</sup> Hankin and Cunningham remained in partnership for about 6 years after which Hankin took the Hazelton Branch on his own and Cunningham the Port Essington branch.<sup>6</sup>

In 1881 Robert Cunningham established a saltery under the name of Skeena Packing Company, and in 1882 he established a cannery, which became the largest on the Skeena. His brand, the Diamond "C" became a favorite in England and Europe. Cunningham also started a saw mill at the Forks of the Skeena, i.e. Hazelton.<sup>7</sup> Through the 1880s Robert's brother, John, worked with him, but left for Metlakatla by the end of the decade. A nephew, George, also worked at Port Essington for a time in the 1890s. The timing is a little unclear, but Cunningham's son, Robert George, entered into the business as a partner c. 1890, the company becoming R. Cunningham & Son.



from left to right, Cunningham's store, Hotel Essington, Cunningham hall  
Courtesy of Royal BC Museum, BC Archives, B-07423

The Hotel Essington first appeared in the 1894 BC Directory although Theodore Davie, while Premier of British Columbia, had written on October 21, 1892 to Frederick S. Hussey, the superintendent of Provincial Police, as follows:

"Dear Hussey

Should R. Cunningham of the Skeena River and Sam Adler come to an arrangement about running a place of business at Essington or elsewhere on Skeena River, there will be no objection to issuing a liquor license in the name of Sam Adler but don't issue it otherwise than to Adler upon the request of Cunningham - I have written to Mr. Turner; of course should he instruct you to the contrary, the license will not issue but unless he does instruct you to the contrary the license can issue, as I have instructed. Yours Truly, Theodore Davie."<sup>8</sup> It may have been 1897 when Cunningham received a license as there was a bond paid to Frederic

## R. CUNNINGHAM & SON, CONT.

Hussey dated September 2, 1897, signed by Robert Cunningham, John Irving and Roads Seabrook.<sup>9</sup>

The police were not impressed with the way the Cunninghams operated their hotel, witness a report submitted August 23, 1898 by Constable George Freeland<sup>10</sup> who spent three weeks assisting Constable Kirby. "While on duty at Port Essington Const. Kirby and myself patrolled the village day and night. Court was held every day. Dr. Bolton and Mr. James Codville adjudicated on all the cases and the village was ridded of undesirable persons only to go to some other Cannery and create disorder there. Fourteen or fifteen cases were heard the first week and in every instance whisky was the cause of the trouble and in the majority of the cases it was directly or indirectly procured from Mr. Cunningham's hotel. In the presence of Const. Kirby I showed Mr. Cunningham Sen<sup>r</sup>. the Act regulating the sale of intoxicants and two days after in Const. Kirby's presence he told me that I was not going to dictate to him how he could run his hotel..." The report went on to give six reasons why Cunningham's license should be withdrawn.<sup>11</sup> The Deputy Provincial Secretary six weeks later wrote to Superintendent Hussey that the renewal of Mr. Cunningham's retail liquor license was to be refused.<sup>12</sup> An application for a license in late January 1900 saw the hotel receive a license again.<sup>13</sup>

A fire in 1899 wiped out part of the town, the Port Essington Hotel<sup>14</sup> and a couple of stores. The report stated that the cannery of Robert Cunningham, a warehouse and the wharf were the only structures that escaped.<sup>15</sup> However, Cunningham rebuilt and continued his ways. A competitor wrote in April 1901 that Cunningham's hotel bar was open on Sundays contrary to the Act.<sup>16</sup> Cunningham also applied for a license for their steamboat *Hazelton* in April 1904.<sup>17</sup> When B.C. Packers was formed c. 1902 Cunningham disposed of his interests in the cannery to that entity.

Robert Cunningham was considered a heavy shipper of freight on the Skeena River. In 1900 he put the *Monte Cristo* in service but it was replaced later that year by the *Hazelton*.<sup>19</sup>

Robert Cunningham suffered a lengthy illness over the winter of 1904-1905 and came to Victoria for treatment about the beginning of March 1905. However, treatment was not successful and he passed away from broncho pneumonia on April 8, 1905.<sup>20</sup> Robert Cunningham & Son, Limited was incorporated just a few days earlier, i.e. April 3, 1905.<sup>21</sup> Robert Cunningham's shares in the Limited company passed to Andrew George Harris as trustee for his estate. By 1907 the *Hazelton* had been taken over by the HBCo and the Essington Hotel was in the hands of a hotel keeper. The company carried on until 1925 when it went into voluntary liquidation and Robert George Cunningham retired.

When Robert George died in 1949 a lengthy obituary spoke of both father and son traveling to many of the native communities along the coast and Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida Gwaii) trading for goods and buying native handicrafts.

Robert George built up a noted collection of argillite carvings. The obituary stated, "Dominated by his father's colorful character until his death in 1903 [sic 1905] Mr. Cunningham, nevertheless, was one of the

**R. Cunningham & Son**

GENERAL MERCHANTS.

PORT ESSINGTON AND HAZELTON.

Owners: Hotel Essington.  
Essington steam sawmill.  
River Steamer "Hazelton."  
lug "Chieftain."

Furs bought and Sold.      Salmon boxes a Specialty.

A 1904 advertisement in the Skeena District News.<sup>18</sup>



## R. CUNNINGHAM & SON, CONT.

best known men in Port Essington when it was the largest town on the north coast and the headquarters for travel and commerce in the upper Skeena country.”<sup>22</sup> Robert George never married.

The settlement of Port Essington had three canneries in 1890 and during the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway it was a busy spot. However, the railway passed on the other side of the Skeena River and Port Essington slowly faded away. As the canneries closed one by one the site was abandoned. By the 1940s there were only a few residents left. The buildings fell victim to fires in the 1960s and today, little, if anything, remains.

A rather humorous reference to the Cunningham tokens is given by K. Mack Campbell,<sup>23</sup> writing about the Ewen and MacMillan Families, “So they decided to investigate and in the spring of 1898, John MacMillan and John and Peter Wallace arrived at Port Essington, on the *S.S. Tees*, skippered by Captain Joe Gosse. They took over the cold storage shed at the Cunningham plant and began buying salmon and making mild cure. The fish were bought for 25 cents each, and the smallest sides were 10 pounds each. They were put up in 800-pound Tierces. Ewen MacMillan tells an amusing story., ‘The Wallaces had provided him with sufficient money to buy fish, and in their wisdom it was all in gold coins. He started to try to buy the fish but the Indian fisherman would have nothing to do with gold. The only money they would take were ‘Cunningham Dollars’ which, of course, were stamped out of brass or bronze. So he had a problem of exchanging his gold coins for Cunningham brass dollars which must have caused him some anxiety!’”

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert Cunningham & Son didn’t exist before 1890, and the tokens were reported in 1898 [see K. Mack Campbell]

<sup>2</sup> I was told this story second-hand. Unfortunately it cannot be verified.

<sup>3</sup> The sources did not give a first name, just referred to him as Mr. Manson.

<sup>4</sup> A gratuity would be a one-time payment, whereas a raise would have kept his pay higher.

<sup>5</sup> Akrigg, G.P.V. and Helen B., *1001 British Columbia Place Names*, Discovery Press, 1969, p. 136, who say that Captain Vancouver applied the name, “Port Essington” to the estuary of the Skeena, not realizing it was a river mouth. He was honouring Vice-Admiral Sir William Essington. The first nations knew the settlement as “Spokeshute.” Later the name was limited to the trading post established by Cunningham near the mouth of the Ecstall River.

<sup>6</sup> The T.H. Hibben *Guide to the Province of British Columbia for 1877-8*, Victoria, B.C., 1877, lists both Cunningham and Hankin, but not as partners.

<sup>7</sup> J.B. Kerr, *Biographical Dictionary of Well-known British Columbians*, Vancouver, 1890. pp.135-136

<sup>8</sup> GR-0055, *Superintendent of Provincial Police Correspondence Inward 1891-1910*, British Columbia Archives, Box 2, File 7. Davie was the Premier from July 2, 1892 until March 2, 1895 when he resigned to become Chief Justice of B.C. He was succeeded as Premier by John Herbert Turner.

<sup>9</sup> GR-0055, Box 17, File 3. Captain John Irving formed the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company in 1882, which later formed the basis of the Coast Service of the C.P.R. Seabrook was a prominent Victoria businessman, involved in R.P. Rithet & Co., and Albion Iron Works.

<sup>10</sup> GR-0091, Vol. 16, Provincial Police Force, Oaths. J. George Freeland was sworn in on March 25, 1898 as a Special Constable and again on May 14, 1898. He was sent to Echo Cove, Naas River [now spelled Nass River].

<sup>11</sup> GR-0055, Box 22, File F

<sup>12</sup> GR-0055, Box 23, File 3

<sup>13</sup> GR-0110, Provincial Police Force, Skeena District

<sup>14</sup> This is probably the Hotel Essington. We have found no evidence that any of the other hotels in the village were established prior to 1901.

<sup>15</sup> *Nelson Daily Miner*, November 16, 1899, p. 4

<sup>16</sup> GR-0055, Box 56

<sup>17</sup> GR-0055, Box 37

<sup>18</sup> *Skeena District News*, Port Essington, January 9, 1904, p. 4

<sup>19</sup> Edward L. Affleck, *A Century of Paddlewheelers in the Pacific Northwest, the Yukon and Alaska*, Alexander Nicolls Press, Vancouver, 2000, p. 56 and p. 53. The *Monte Cristo* was built in 1891 in Washington state. She was 90 feet long, x 24 feet wide and drew 3 feet. The *Monte Cristo* was brought to the Stikine River in 1898. She was rebuilt and enlarged, 108 x 20 x 3.9 feet, in 1899 and then was worked by R. Cunningham from 1900. Subsequently chartered to the Dominion Government for service on the Stikine laying the Yukon telegraph Line and then abandoned in 1903. The *Hazelton* was built in 1901 in Victoria for Cunningham. She measured 134 x 24 x 4.4 feet. She was laid up after a couple of seasons under an agreement with the rival Hudson’s Bay Company. The HBCo operated here after the loss of the *Mount Royal* in 1907. She was dismantled in 1912.

<sup>20</sup> GR2951 British Columbia Division of Vital Events, Death Registration 05-09-018521, microfilm B13080

<sup>21</sup> GR1438, Attorney-General, Registrar-General, QE1280, B04422

<sup>22</sup> *The Daily News*, Prince Rupert, March 28, 1949, p. 1

<sup>23</sup> K. Mack Campbell, *Cannery Village: Company Town*, Trafford, Victoria, 2004, p. 201

# BRITISH COLUMBIA ITEMS

(Relating to this month's article and to Alaska.  
See the map on the front page.)

## DAWSON CREEK



Centennial Coin, 1967, brass



5.00

## TOURIST REGION "G" - (Skeena area)



Trade Dollar, 1977, Yellowhead Hwy, 50th Anniversary of Terrace District, Prince Rupert



5.00



Alaska Highway, Mile 0, nickel



5.00

## TRAVEL REGION "H" (NW B.C.)



\$2 Trade Coin, 1977, Peace River-Alaska Hwy. Tourist Asso., Ft. St. John.



10.00

## FORT ST. JOHN



40th Anniversary, Alaska Highway, 1982



5.00

## OTHER B.C. TOKENS

All plastic, about 38mm, shown reduced size.

## ABBOTSFORD



Abbotsford Single Parents Club, good for one drink, red on white

5.00

## PRINCE RUPERT



City of Prince Rupert, blank reverse, brass

5.00

## ALDERGROVE



Lions Club, one drink, white on blue

5.00

## BURNABY

Clinton (school), 1 juice, white on orange

5.00



# KITIMAT ALCAN MEDALLIONS

by David Phillips

In the late 1940s, the Aluminum Co. of Canada, aided and abetted by the Provincial Government of British Columbia, and, in anticipation of the continuing post-war boom, decided to spend millions of dollars (billions in today's dollars) on building a new aluminum smelter and nearby townsite for workers, in the raw bush country at the head of a deep water fiord, Douglas Channel, that cut into the northwest coast of British Columbia.

This location was on the delta and nearby area of the Kitimat River, and was formally incorporated as the town of Kitimat in 1953. This location is 140 miles, as the crow flies, southeast of Ketchikan, Alaska. Both townsite and smelter were up and running by 1954!

The first "official" pour of molten aluminum into an ingot mould was done as part of the "Official Opening" of the smelter on August 3rd, 1954. This was attended was done by the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Phillip, Queen Elizabeth's husband. A medallion was given to all dignitaries and visitors in attendance.



Because of the uniqueness and scope of the project, visitors soon arrived to tour the smelter complex, and Alcan (an acronym for the Aluminum Co. of Canada) decided to have produced and distributed to visitors, a souvenir medallion.



The first one produced was in 1959, and was 1 inch, or 25.5mm in diameter. The second one was produced later in 1959, and it was 1¼ inch, or 30.5mm in diameter.

Both were deemed too small and easily lost, so were discontinued in favour of a more substantial medallion, also produced in 1959. This medal was thicker, and was 2 inches or 51.5mm in diameter. The medals have the trademark of Alcan on the obverse, and a map of Canada on the reverse, showing the location of the Kitimat and Arvida (Quebec) smelters.

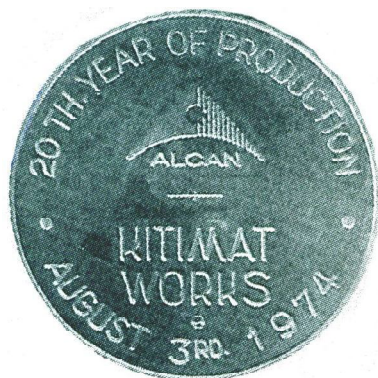


The size and design remained the same, with a few minor varieties occurring with resupply orders, until 1971. The design was then freshened up by the addition of 6 maple leaves, and a rearrangement of the lettering (next page).



## KITIMAT ALCAN MEDALLIONS, cont.

Honoring the 20th year of production, August 3, 1974, a commemorative medallion was made in a similar format as the souvenir medallions. These were given to visitors only in that year. (2 inches, 51.5mm) (below).

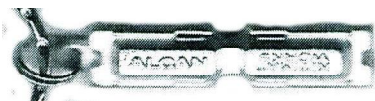


Breaking with tradition, a square medallion was made for the 25th Anniversary (August 3, 1979). These were given to all workers at the Kitimat Alcan Smelter operations on that date (below).

In 1983 a 2 7/8 inch (70mm) medallion/coaster was given to all workers at Kitimat Alcan Smelter operations. It has a thin blue felt pad attached to the reverse (below).



The souvenir medallion program was discontinued approximately in the late 1980s to mid 1990s, and replaced with a tiny aluminum ingot on a key chain.



## KEMANO

Kemano was an offshoot community, created by and for Alcan's operation at Kitimat. Kemano supplied the huge amount of electricity that ran the smelter at Kitimat.



## KITIMAT ALCAN MEDALLIONS, cont.

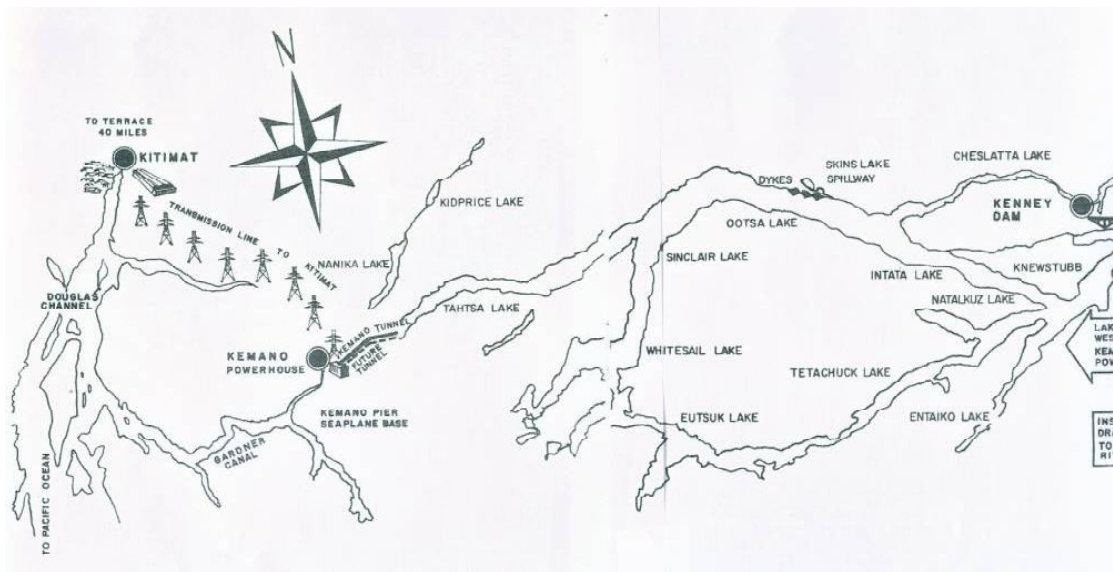
The outlets of three interior plateau lakes was dammed up (Kenny Dam) and a huge reservoir was created. At its northwest end of the reservoir, a 10 mile tunnel was driven through mountains and then down 1900 inside a tidewater mountain. At the base of this penstock, the mountain was hollowed out and a series of turbines were installed in the hollowed out area. Water from the upcountry reservoir rushed through the tunnel, down the penstock and through the turbines, generating great quantities of electricity. This was then sent by transmission lines 50 miles across country to the Kitimat smelter site.

Alcan initially created a medallion for Kemano in 1960. It, like its Kitimat counterparts was 2 inches or 51.5 mm in size and very similar in design.

In later years (no specific date known), two further medallion were produced featuring both Kemano and Kitimat (below).



Both use the same obverse of Kemano Power Operations. One of the two was more oriented to Kemano as is shows the turbines in the power house, and the mountain that contains both the penstock and power house.





# KITIMAT ALCAN MEDALLIONS, cont.

## RIO TINTO

In November 2007, the Australian metals giant, Rio Tinto, bought Alcan's assets, and continues to own and operate the Kitimat smelter operation to this day. A major upgrade was done in 2015.

Souvenir items from Rio Tinto are few and far between... However, a 2 inch medallion was produced. It is dated: 60 years of operation, 1954-2014.

A second medallion was produced in 2015 and is in a nice presentation package. The size is 4 inches (102mm). It would appear to this writer that this medallion would be somewhat limited in number and likely presented to a limited number of persons.



The obverse shows H.R.H. Prince Phillip and Nathaniel Davis at the initial pouring in 1954. The reverse shows (presumably) new equipment installed in 2015 upgrade. (actual size 4 inches, shown reduced).

Two further medallions are noted for Kitimat, as they are similar to the many Alcan medallions. Both are 2 inches (51mm), aluminum.

District of Kitimat - not dated, but known to have been produced for the incorporation of the "city" of Kitimat in 1953.

Corporation of the District of Kitimat - not dated but known to have been produced for the 10th anniversary of the "city" of Kitimat in 1963.







See page 75

# RUSSIAN JACK LONDON MEDALS

by Ronald J. Benice

Most collectors are aware of the Russian-American numismatic link in the famous “sealskin” notes issued by the Russian-American Company between 1816 and 1834 for their use in their colony that we now call Alaska. Less well known are two Russian medals struck in 1976 and 1977 to commemorate the centennial of the birth of Jack London, American writer of tales of Alaska and the Yukon.

The first is a 41mm high relieve .925 silver medal struck by the Moscow mint from a design by I. Postol.



The obverse shows a portrait of Jack London accompanied by a facsimile signature in English, the years 1876 and 1976, and the sculptor’s name in Cyrillic characters. The reverse shows typical Alaskan mountains, trees and water. The silver content, Moscow mint mark, date, serial number of 4000 issued are indicated. The sculptor, Iliya Alekseevich Postol was born in 1950, lived in Moscow, and died in

1988. His other works include medals commemorating the Soyuz space fights, the Bolshoi Theater’s bicentennial, Tolstoy’s 150th anniversary, and the 1917 Revolution.

The second is a 60mm high relief bronze medal struck by the Leningrad mint from a design by A. Leonova. The obverse has a portrait of Jack London, his 1876 birth date, the 1916 year of his suicide, and his name printed in the Cyrillic alphabet. The reverse shows a man wearing a parka and snowshoes carrying a rifle in rugged terrain, with the sun in the background. It is signed by the sculptress, dated 1977, and bears the Leningrad mint mark. Angelina Alekseevna Leonova was born in 1926 and currently resides in Moscow. Among her other works are medals honoring Vitus Bering and the 250th anniversary of the USSR Academy of Sciences, as well as the Karl Marx medal given as an award by the Academy.

We know Jack London for his many adventure books, including *Call of the Wild*, his most famous, and *Daughter of the Snows* and *White Fang* about the far north. So why are Russians making Jack London medals?

Jack London was an avid socialist and Marxist. He wrote *War of the Classes* in 1905 about the inevitability of class struggle, and *The Iron Heel* in 1907 about the rise of Fascism. He continues to be widely read and admired in Russia.

## REFERENCES:

1. *Encyclopedia Americana*, Grolier, Danbury, CT, 1993
2. Anno and Yuri Barshay, private correspondence, St. Petersburg, Russia, 1993.



## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Our thanks this month to Ron Benice for his article on the Jack London medals. Despite what one may think of the USSR, some of their medallic art is quite appealing. These are two very attractive pieces, offered as lot number 272 in our October auction. All of the Alaska items can be found at the end of this issue. Please write or email if you want a complete listing.

Kaye Dethridge is back on eBay selling tokens after a long absence. Welcome back Kaye and Irene.

I will be leaving shortly for the UK again. This will be a shorter trip than last year as Coinex and the Token Congress are back-to-back weekends. I will be presenting at the Token Congress, this time on John Zaccarelli, Pioneer Merchant of the Klondike Gold Rush.

The Hanscom family name, in its many variations, appears to have originated in the area of Shillington (also known in the early 1800s as Shytlington), Bedfordshire, England. One particular part of Shillington is known as Hanscombe End. We will visit Shillington. There were two Hanscombes that issued tokens in London in the 1600s. We will visit those areas.



I made these for my own amusement for our trip this year. The three balls hanging is the symbol for pawn broker, the closest I could come to coin dealer. My wife thought they were hangman's nooses. Wishful thinking.

Around 1812, due to a lack of coinage issued by the Crown, merchants issued their own shillings. Shillington did not have a shilling. That is just not right. So, I made one.



I will give these away to those who are helpful in this minor genealogical research. And perhaps I will sell a few at the Token Congress.

## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Native Gold & Copper, B-30a	950.00OB
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Sullivan Hotel, encased cent	180.27
<b>Ft. Egbert</b> , Post Exchange, 25¢, B-1a	1862.00
<b>Goodnews Bay</b> , Joe Jean, 25¢, B-1a	36.01
<b>Koyukuk</b> , Verneti, \$5, B-3e	12.50
<b>Murphy Dome</b> , NCO OM, (2) \$1, B-3 f,g	37.55
<b>Nome</b> , B of T, 12½¢, similar to B-8f	158.05
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 1¢, B-1a	81.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	68.02
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	78.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	71.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 50¢, B-1e	103.51
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$1, B-1f	131.50
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$5, B-1g	230.59
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, \$10, B-1h	436.00
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	50.00OB
<b>Sparrevohn</b> , 719th ACW Sqdn, 5¢, B-1a	8.89
<b>Tonsina</b> , Jake Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a	45.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, \$1, B-4cII	1,100.00BIN
<b>Alaska Gastineau Mine</b> , 3 ID chits	50.00OB
<b>Alaska Railroad Chits</b> : AK Central, AK Home and CR&NW	260.00
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , B&M, 12½¢, B-4a	65.00OB
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , Tanana Hotel, 25¢, B-21a	268.45BIN
<b>Dawson, YT</b> , Tanana Hotel, 25¢, B-21a	123.50
<b>Skeena, BC</b> , Cunningham, 50¢	595.00OB
<b>HBC</b> , Eastern Arctic, 50	39.95OB
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, round	37.00
<b>Mishler AK-HI Set</b> , complete with gold	9,880.00BOA
<b>Klondike Charm</b> on stick pin	152.50

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

\* \* \* \* \*

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# ***FUN ITEMS FROM CANDY'S GARAGE SALE!***

Candy Waugaman's annual Alaskana garage sale was held the weekend of July 27. It raised in excess of \$25,000 for charity. Here are a few items I found interesting.

## **HOW NOT TO RETORT**

Retorting is the procedure of mixing black sands and fine gold with mercury to create an amalgam. The mercury is then boiled off, leaving the gold. Below is a photo demonstrating how NOT to do it, with mercury vapor coming out of the pan. It is marked "Dome City" on the back.

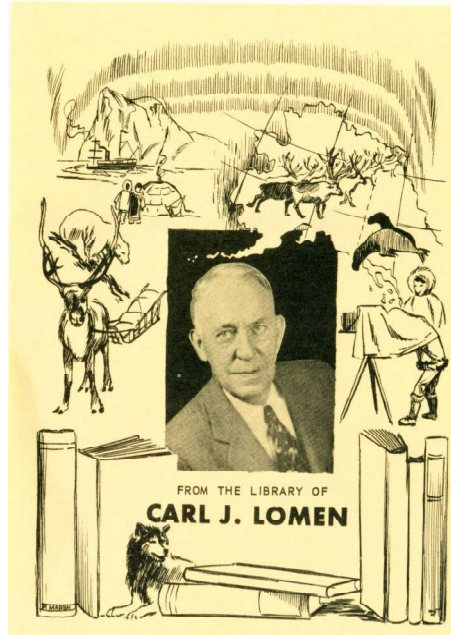


The term "mad as a hatter" comes from the use of mercury compounds in the hat making industry. This guy could have started the saying "mad as a gold miner," but we already know about gold fever.

\* \* \* \* \*

There were thousands of items worthy of note, and many found new homes. We can't wait until next year!

## **LOMEN BOOKPLATE**



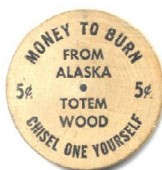
An unused bookplate from Carl Lomen of the Lomen Brothers, Nome, B-30a

## **ARCTIC BROTHERHOOD**

An invitation to attend the monthly social session of the Fairbanks Camp No. 16 of the Arctic Brotherhood.



# MONEY TO BURN



by David Phillips

## LRB & MLB WOODS

This wood is a signature geocache wood produced for long time geocachers Lee and Molly Baker of Eagle River, Alaska. They started geocaching in 2005 and to date have found over 3,000 caches in 9 different states! Lee is holding a GPS device used to find the co-ordinates of geocaches.

They geocache as a team, but are very competitive, and each loves to find the cache before the other.



The wood is the standard 38mm (1½”) wood. The color of the lettering and Alaska map is brown. The wood is produced by woodennickelgeocoins.com of Oakfield, Wisconsin.

One hundred of these were purchased in July 2018



by the Bakers and will be left in geocaches found along their way from Alaska to New York where Lee, Molly and daughter Stacy are relocating (in the fall of 2018, via their RV) after 33 years in Alaska.

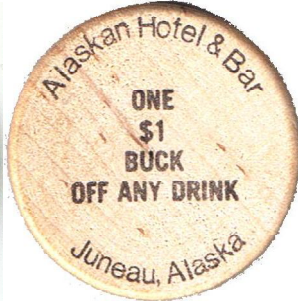
Geocache signature woods are left in found caches to indicate that “I, or we have found this cache.”

How will they handle the Call of the North? It’s a hard land to forget.

On a personal note, I have known these folks for years. Molly has been a godsend to me, as she has found many Alaska woods for me in her travels around the southern Alaska. Wife and I will miss all the Bakers, if and when we are visiting Alaska again. Safe travels to your new home in the State of New York, Bakers. We will stay in touch!

\* \* \* \* \*

## JUNEAU HOT SPRINGS???



This is an interesting wood from the Alaskan Hotel & Bar. Obviously issued in Juneau (the address on S. Franklin is present), but also claiming “Juneau Hot Springs. From the wood above, they obviously also owned Tenakee Inn & Tavern at Tenakee Springs. Trying to re-brand Tenakee Springs to Juneau Hot Springs? Or did the Alaskan Hotel & Bar install hot tubs?



# YUKON GOLD



Golden Predator Mining Corp. and its wholly owned subsidiary, the Yukon Mint have issued 1 and ½ troy ounce .9999 fine gold medals. The medals are 32mm and 25mm respectively. Minting is done by Sunshine Minting in Idaho.

The medals were designed by Miranda Lane of the Kaska Nation and features “Keda” - Dene for moose. The reverse has the famous scene of miners going up the Chilkoot Pass.

This is the first of a planned annual series of medals featuring First Nation art.



The gold is from the 3 Aces Project, in the south-eastern portion of Yukon near the boundary with Northwest Territories, and the Nahanni Range Road which leads to Tungsten, NWT.

The medals were released to the public on June 21, 2018, National Aboriginal Day.

Current pricing is \$1400US for the 1 oz. and \$750US for the 1/2 oz, plus shipping charges. Mintages are 180 and 140 respectively.



tember, 2017.

You can contact Golden Predator at [info@goldenpredator.com](mailto:info@goldenpredator.com)

## FINALLY!



It has been slow for buying gold but I finally purchased an ounce of gold from Ester Creek. It was really dirty, with about a 20% burn-off. The good news is that I didn't pay for that 20%. I just had to wait for the assay from GRC, and purchased my ounce accordingly. The bad news is that with that much of a burn-off, I only had enough gold for 15 tokens. I should have known better and purchased a little more.

Ester Creek is about 10 miles west of Fairbanks. I have already made tokens from Ready Bullion and Eva Creeks, and these creeks flow into Ester Creek.

Ester Creek has produced placer gold almost continuously from 1905 to the present. The gold is deeply buried with bedrock nearly 170 feet below the surface. It was mined first by drift mining, then stripping the overburden with hydraulic monitors, and finally with United States Smelting, Refining & Milling Dredge No. 6.

This gold from Ester Creek assayed at .7541 gold and .1844 silver.

These are available for \$85 each, and I will include a 1/10 oz. silver trial strike.

# BOATY McBOATFACE

I wrote a rant lambasting non-circulating legal tender. How it discouraged me as a young collector. How these weird things (“coins” shaped like skulls, with gem stones, etc.) aren’t really coins. How places with little or no population are now issuing coins where there really is no need. Solely issued to raise money for the government and the private mint. I wonder how the profit is split!



And then along comes Boaty McBoatface. It checks off all of my criteria for rejection as a coin.

But it is from the polar regions, issued under the name of the British Antarctic Territory. So that gets it a second look. It will never circulate in B.A.T. There is no need for it. They only minted 6,000, based upon a the bogus connection to the depth range of Boaty (6,000 meters) and range (6,000 kilometers).

But the Boaty McBoatface story, so unique and amusing...The Brits were looking for a name for a new Royal Research Ship (RRS), and Boaty McBoatface was suggested and carried an on line pole by a large margin. Of course, the staid, stiff upper-lip Brits could not name a respectable ship Boaty McBoatface, so they settled for the RRS Sir David Attenborough. A submersible was to receive the name Boaty McBoatface.

So, let’s see. It will never circulate. BAT has no need for coins. It has an enameled yellow sub (“We all live in a yellow.....”).

I couldn’t send Pobjoy Mint my \$30 fast enough!

FIRST EVER BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY 50P!

British Pobjoy Mint®

# BOATY McBOATFACE

The Polar Research Vessel

When a campaign was launched to name the UK’s next polar research ship, there was one suggestion that caught the nation’s imagination and, although it was not thought suitable for the ship, the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) which will be carried on the RRS Sir David Attenborough now proudly carries the name **Boaty McBoatface**.

Able to travel on its own under water and ice up to depths of 6,000m and with a range of 6,000km, which is reflected in the issue limit, the scientific data it collects will be sent back to scientists aboard the research ship and on land.



# ODD AUCTION ITEMS YOU NEED TO SEE!



Lot number 273, actual size.



Lot number 274, actual size, front and back.



Lot number 268, reduced.



Lot number 267, reduced and actual size.

# AUCTION TO BE HELD IN FAIRBANKS

## OCTOBER 20, 2018

**Bids accepted until Noon, October 20 - Auction begins 7:00PM**  
**By mail: Alaska Rare Coins, 551-B Second Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701**  
**By phone: 907-452-6461 By email - akcoins@mosquitonet.com**

### ALASKA MEDALS

### ESTIMATE

- |     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 258 | <b>Official Alaska Silver Medals, 1989.</b> This was the first year of the official medals, authorized by the State. Designed by Doug Lindstrand, they feature a polar bear on an ice floe. This set is comprised of 1/10 oz. (1,934), ¼ oz. (1,287), ½ oz. (1,932) and 1 oz. (9,085). Very high mintages as compared to the current issues, but quite hard to find.  | 150.00+ |
| 259 | <b>Official Alaska Silver Medals, 1990.</b> In 1990, Alaska Precious Metals was trying to establish a bullion coin program for the State. They offered 1 oz. silver Proofs and "Proof-likes." The Proofs were substantially more pricey. Appearance-wise, there was not much difference, so we never purchased the Proofs. The major difference is that the Proofs had a plain edge while the Proof-likes had a reeded edge. I cannot remember the last time we saw a Proof of this issue. Only 1,250 Proofs were struck as compared to 9,166 Proof-likes. Offered here is a Proof and a Proof-like. You can see that the Proof has slightly more reflective surfaces (and a plain edge) than the Proof-like. A rare opportunity. You just don't know when you will see another. 2 pcs. | 150.00+ |
| 260 | <b>Official Alaska Silver Medals, 1991.</b> Third year of issue, and the last year that Alaska Precious Metals had the state contract. Mintages are estimates, as they filed bankruptcy mid-year. The set is comprised of 1/10 oz. (100), ¼ oz. (100), ½ oz. (200) and 1 oz. (2,000). The design is two intertwined salmon. The fractionals are very scarce.  | 150.00+ |
| 261 | <b>Official Alaska State 1/10 oz. Gold Medal, 1993.</b> The obverse is a wolf and only 298 were struck. This is a pretty example with no red spotting and has the original packaging.   | 200.00  |
| 262 | <b>Official Alaska State Silver Proof Set, 2001.</b> The Alaska Mint issues a proof set from 1/20 oz. up to a full ounce for a total of 1.9 troy ounces. These are attractively displayed in a plush case and depict a mountain goat on the obverse. The Alaska Mint currently lists this set at \$300.   | 200.00  |
| 263 | <b>Vitus Bering Friendship Dollar, 1991.</b> A very attractive one ounce silver medal issued by the Alaska Geographic Society to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Bering's landing on Kayak Island in 1741. The obverse features the sailing ship St. Peter at Cape St. Elias, while the reverse has a map of Alaska and Siberia. It is housed in its original presentation folder with fold out map. The medal was so discolored by polyvinylchloride that we took it from its holder, carefully removed the contamination, put it in a new holder and re-inserted it into its folder. A modern medal that we don't see very often.  | 100.00  |
| 264 | <b>Yukon Quest 1 oz. Silver Medals.</b> 2,500 were minted each year from 1993 to 2002. Included here are 1993, 1994 and 1999 in their original boxes. Three pieces.   | 150.00+ |
| 265 | <b>Alaska Railroad 1 oz. Silver Medals, 2002 and 2012.</b> The 2002 shows the train in a winter scene with a moose in the foreground. The 2012 depicts the train emerging from a tunnel. Two pieces.  | 100.00+ |
| 266 | <b>Iditarod 1 oz. Silver Medal, 2012,</b> 40th anniversary. These sold for \$109.99. Original packaging.  | 100.00  |
| 267 | <b>The Largest Alaska Medal???</b> This is a massive cast medal, about 145mm (5½ inches in diameter), 12mm thick. Sadly it is not silver, but a silver colored base metal. The obverse has a map of Alaska with "Alaska" above and "Last Frontier" below. The reverse copies a Morgan Dollar, but without the date. Bigger than a hockey puck, smaller than a discus (mini-discus?). This is first and only one we have seen. See page 77 for photo.  | 50.00   |
| 268 | <b>Red Dog Mine 1 oz. Silver Medal,</b> in Lucite for presentation: "In Appreciation, Five Years of Service, NANA/Marriott Red Dog Mine, Kotzebue, Alaska." Embedded in a triangular piece of Lucite, the base is about 173mm, the sides about 190mm (not an equilateral triangle), and 24mm thick. Very attractive. See page 77 for photo.   |         |



# ALASKA COLLECTIBLES

- 269 **Alaska Northwest Natural Gas Pipeline Belt Buckle**, 1981-1985, Teamsters Local 959. This is a nice, heavy brass buckle (about 90mm by 52mm) by Anacortes Brass Works with only slight wear. It depicts a truck hauling pipe that was so common during the construction of the oil pipeline. So, do you really believe we are going to get a gas pipeline now? When pigs fly? A snowball's chance in Hell? I guess we can only hope. 50.00+
- 270 **Alaska Silver Anniversary of Statehood Belt Buckle**, 1984. My memory is really hazy on this one! I think the company offered to make proto-types at a minimal charge hoping you would like the product and order more. The design is similar to our 1 oz. silver medal for the anniversary. The back is etched (scratched) DH 1 of 3. It is made of a base metal with a silver finish, about 70mm in diameter. Also included are two uniface "medals" of the same design, about 36mm in diameter, with bronze and silver finishes. Not unique, but darn close (it appears there were three belt buckles). I have no recollection where the other samples may have gone. Three pieces. 100.00+
- 271 **Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association Brass Belt Buckles**, 50th Anniversary, 1987. One large (oval, 75mm by 56mm) and one small (oval 50mm by 38mm). Nice heavy brass by Anacortes Brass Works. Two buckles in their original boxes. 100.00+
- 272 **Jack London Medals**. Jack London was an avid socialist and Marxist, so it is no surprise that he would be popular in the Soviet Union (now Russia). The mints in the U.S.S.R. issued two medals to honor him. The first by the Moscow mint is a 41mm, sterling silver medal (.96 troy ounce ASW) with his portrait on the obverse and a typical mountain and lake scene on the reverse. This medal is number 3646 of 4000. The second, by the Leningrad mint is a 60mm bronze medal. The portrait on the obverse is in high relief. The reverse depicts a man on snowshoes with the sun low on the horizon. Both medals are very attractive and seldom seen in the U.S. Two medals. See page 71 (front page) for a full account. 200.00+
- 273 **Two Unusual Alaska-related Items**. The first is a small oval portrait of Seward. It is struck in pewter, is oval shaped, 21mm by 17mm. The reverse is blank. The second appears to be a Canadian customs lead seal. One side says "CANADA" and "(blank)R." The blank is a depression where perhaps a wire for the seal was attached. It leaves a crevice. I believe that when it was intact (before the seal was broken) the letter "V" was probably present to read "VR" (Victoria Regina). The other side has "SKAGUAY PORT." This early spelling of Skagway gives the credence to the assumption that the missing letter should be for Victoria. Two pieces. See page 77 for photos. 100.00+
- 274 **Antique Alaska Jewelry, J.L. Sale**. A very unusual piece, oval in shape, 1 3/4" wide, and 1" tall with chunky nuggetting over the surface. Probably better described as a flattened "O". From the bottom extend a two large prongs that go to the center. The purpose of these we can only conjecture, and it was worn as a brooch. The back is clearly marked J.L. Sale and we guess a 10kt composition (although Sale was known to use "native gold" which would be a higher purity). Sale arrived in Dawson, Yukon about 1898 and expanded from there to several locations, including Fairbanks. He pioneered gold nugget jewelry. Rarely do we see any of these original pieces. Total weight is .315 troy ounces and we estimate about .20 troy oz. actual gold content. A wonderful piece of Yukon/Alaska history. See page 77 for photos. 700.00-1,000.00
- 275 **Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Progress/Commemorative Editions**. Five amazing issues including: "*Opportunity in the 49<sup>th</sup> State*," December 3, 1958, 164 pages in 14 sections; "*Blueprint of the Future Alaska*," November 11, 1959, 144 pages in 12 sections; "*Flood Round Up*," September 14, 1967, 48 pages in 6 sections; "*25th Annual Progress Edition, Alaska in Transition, 1975*," 196 pages in 7 sections; and "*Special Golden Days Edition, 1902-1977*," 36 pages in 6 sections. These are massive papers in the "old size" of 23 inches by 17 inches. They are a tremendous resource of recent history, along with the hopes and dreams of Alaska and Fairbanks since statehood. Some browning of paper, but overall in surprisingly good condition. How many have survived? Five newspapers. 150.00

## ALASKA U.S.G.S. REPORTS

- 276 **Geology and Mineral Resources of Northwestern Alaska**, Smith & Mertie, Bulletin 815, 1930. This is a nice report with 350 pages. I must note that the Index ends with T, so a page is missing, as is the back cover. Regardless, the report is filled with photos, including panoramics, maps and charts. 100.00
- 277 **Two Large USGS Reports**. Included are: *Geology of the Alaska Railroad Region*, Bulletin 907, 1940. A large paperbound report with 197 pages, and a back pocket with a bunch of maps which are thicker than the text. Also, *Geology and Ore Deposits of the Bokan Mountain Uranium-Thorium Area Southeastern Alaska*, Bulletin 1154, 1963. This area is still under exploration for rare earth minerals. Paperbound, 124 pages with a large pocket of maps. Also included are four smaller reports: *Mineral Investigations in Southeastern Alaska*, Bulletin 783-B, 1926; *Geology of the Knik-Matanuska District Alaska*, Bulletin 792-B, 1927; *The Kaiyuh Hills Alaska*, Bulletin 868-D, 1936; and *Kodiak and Vicinity*, Bulletin 868-B, 1937. Because of the form of binding, all are somewhat fragile, but in remarkably good condition. A total of 6 reports. 100.00
- 278 **Mineral Industry in Alaska in ... and Administrative Report**. Five reports from the years 1924, 1925, 1926, 1930 and 1931. The 1925 is by Moffit, the others by Smith. From as few as 36 pages to over 100 pages, the largest being 1931. These reports give a brief overview of mining in Alaska and make interesting reading (if somewhat repetitive from year to year). 5 reports. 100.00

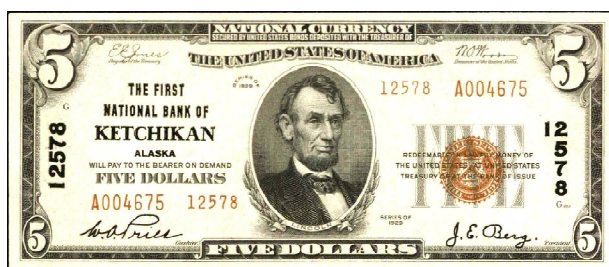
## ALASKA CURRENCY

Ron Benice reports on the ANA in Philadelphia:



A First National Bank of Fairbanks, \$5 red seal in choice about new 55 sold for \$19,200, one bid above the minimum bid in Heritage.

Stack's Bowers sold a small size Ketchikan type 1 \$5 graded VF for \$5,500 including commission.



The next lot, a small size type 2 graded gem uncirculated 65 EPQ, brought \$90,000, well above high estimate! It is the highest graded small size national from Alaska. It came from an heir of the bank cashier William Price, whose signature is on the note.

## ALUTIIQ MUSEUM



A uniface wooden refrigerator magnet. Black on wood. Alutiiq Museum is in Kodiak.

## TIERRA DEL FUEGO



A new variety of the 1 Peso token of the "Primera y Segunda Argentina" sheep ranch token has appeared. The known variety is on black vulcanite, and this one appears to be cream (or tan) colored vulcanite (a hard rubber). The 20 Centavos of this series is on tan/black/tan vulcanite, while the 50 Centavos is red. It is not very often a new Tdelf token turns up!



# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

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& POLAR NUMISMATIST

VOLUME XL, NO. 9, NOVEMBER, 2018.



See page 90

## ARCTIC THUNDER ROARS AGAIN

Arctic Thunder was held this year on June 30 and July 1 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage.

J.D. Williams attended the event and provided the photos and information for this article.

All branches of the Armed Services took part in this event: Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.

Once again there was an Arctic Thunder (\$5) plastic token - metallic blue on red, 41mm. This was good in trade at many of the booths selling food and souvenirs (including the challenge coins).



In addition to the military units, several commercial businesses also participated: two Harley-Davidson dealers, Visit Anchorage, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, CRW Engineering, Shockwave Trampoline Parks, Bosco's Comics, and Texas Roadhouse.

Texas Roadhouse was



Continued on page 83

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Wow! Something I never thought I would see. A holed and repaired token! See page 90. I would not have even noticed it if Ron Benice had not asked me to confirm the size that was reported back in 2004. I would have never thought it.

While in the UK at the Token Congress, there was a brief discussion of a person making fake coal mine ID checks (like Alaska Gastineau Mining Co.). Apparently this person has been at it for some time, taking blank checks and impressing them for mines that never had them. The long time collectors there are aware of this, reported it to the authorities and eBay and nothing has been done. New collectors and those with less knowledge get sucked in.

There are a few sleaze bags in every walk of life. I am just really happy that the vast majority of token collectors are good, honest people who enjoy sharing their knowledge of the hobby.

There were some interesting items on eBay this month - some good military tokens, along with some bogus that we are not reporting. Kaye Dethridge is back in force with quite a few offerings ranging from common to scarce.

Our thanks this month to J.D. Williams for his coverage of Arctic Thunder. And for a photo of a "real" Taku Glacier tray.

And what could be better than finding an old safe buried in Dawson? (page 85)

\* \* \* \* \*

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## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Club Card Rm, 5¢, as B-12c	OB299.00NB
<b>Anchorage</b> , Union Club, set of 4, B-38	16.50
<b>Campion AFS</b> , NCO OM \$1, B-1b	32.00
<b>Chatanika</b> , Bingle Fritz, set of 3, B-1	103.50
<b>Chisana</b> , Lou Anderton, 50¢, B-1b	12.50
<b>Cordova</b> , Northern Drug, 12½¢ & 50¢, B-28c,b	73.89
<b>Delta Jct.</b> , Diehl's FST	76.00
<b>Eek</b> , Gil McIntyre, 50¢, B-1b	44.98
<b>Fairbanks/Eielson</b> , AK Coachways, B-T1a	30.00OB
<b>False Pass</b> , P.E. Harris, 25¢, B-1c	202.50
<b>Ft. Davis</b> , Post Ex., 10¢, B-1d (see page 90)	2,950.00
<b>Ft. Gibbon</b> , Post Exchange, 5¢, B-1a	995.95OB
<b>Galena</b> , Nollner, 25¢, B-2a	125.00OB
<b>Juneau</b> , M&J, 6¼¢, B-44a	430.00
<b>Juneau</b> , NY Exchange, 6¼¢, B-53a	7.00
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Blue Fox Pup, \$1, B-6e	11.51
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Pioneer/Barclay, 25¢, B-42b	50.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Stedman Hotel, 12½¢, B-60b?	10.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Ak Cab, Full Fare, B-T1a	31.00
<b>Ketchikan</b> , No. Star Trans, (2) Child's, B-3 a+b	7.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Northern Bus, 1 Fare, B-T4bII	7.45
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Northern Bus, 1 Fare, B-T4bII	9.99OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Northern Bus, 1 Bus Fare, B-T4c	10.49
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Northern Bus, 1 Fare, B-T4d	16.00
<b>Kodiak</b> , NOB, B-10b	11.87
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	40.00OB
<b>Murphy Dome</b> , 744NCO, 50¢, as B-3i	51.00
<b>(Nome)</b> , lead pencil, B-2a	45.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Mulloy, 25¢, B-33a	20.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Pioneer Drug, 25¢, B-40a	586.00
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	74.03
<b>Petersburg</b> , OK's Place, 5¢ & 10¢, B-7a,b	36.00
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8a	45.00
<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8bIII	32.00
<b>Shemya</b> , NCO Club, \$1, B-1f	12.41
<b>Shemya</b> , NCO OM, 50¢, B-2gl	10.61
<b>Sitka</b> , USMC Post Exchange, 12½¢, B-12c	2,125.00
<b>Sitka</b> , R. Witz, 5¢, B-17a	42.00
<b>Sitka</b> , Baranof Bus, One Fare, B-T2a	12.00OB
<b>Skagway</b> , McCreedy & Elliott, 25¢, B-16c	20.00OB
<b>Skagway</b> , Mascot, 12½¢, B-17c	52.33
<b>Valdez</b> , CBB, \$1 reported at \$1,100 was	BIN835.00
<b>Wildwood</b> Correctional Center, 5	18.07
<b>Whitehorse</b> , YT, TDP, 25¢, B-7a	7.67
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, horseshoe	74.45
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, round	42.00OB
<b>AYPE</b> , Encased Cent, round	40.99

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.



## ARCTIC THUNDER, cont..

handing out wooden tokens in three colors: plain wood, blue wood and red wood, all with black printing. These were good for a free Kids Meal, with limitations shown on the other side.

J.D. did a great job gathering up as many challenge coins as he could. He was rebuffed when he tried to buy one out of the service member's pocket! The guy asked his buddies if they would take advantage of him (make him buy drinks) if he did so. They said yes, so this one escaped the collection!

Several aviation demonstrations were included in the schedule of events including Warbirds/Wings of Freedom Flyover, Super Cup Short Takeoff and Landing, C-17 demo, F-22 demo, the Red Bull Air Force and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. It is my understanding that ear protection was available at several of the vendors!



## ARCTIC THUNDER - CHALLENGE COINS

All are shown smaller than actual size. Colors are noted unless there are too many, and then they are "multi-colored." Silver or gold indicates the color of the base metal, not precious metal. Some may duplicate what we have shown before. These are what was available at Arctic Thunder 2018.



**Navy Operational Support Center, Alaska.** Gold, multi-colored with a photo of an eagle over Cook Inlet, 45mm.



**Navy Operational Support Center, Alaska.** Gold, multi-colored, 45mm.



**Directorate of Public Works, United States Army Garrison, Alaska / Presented for Excellence, Committed to Service.** Gold with white, black, blue, yellow and red, 45mm.



**90th AMU, Roll the Dice, Pay the price.** Text on panel on reverse. Gold with tan, black, red, white, green and blue, 50mm by 75mm.



**Arctic Medic, One Team-One Fight.** Alphabet soup around the rims. Bronze with blue, black and yellow, 50mm.



**U.S.S. Anchorage, LPD-23, Arctic Gator.** Bronze with red, white, yellow and green, 45mm.



**Armed Forces YMCA of Alaska, 18Feb17, Salute to the Military / 40 years of Celebration, 1977-2017, Service before self.** Silver, 58mm.



## ARCTIC THUNDER - CHALLENGE COINS, cont.



**Arctic Warriors, JBER / AMMO, IYAAYAS.** Silver with black, brown, tan, blue and white, 45mm.



**3rd Maintenance Group, JBER Alaska / Maintaining Top Cover for the World.** Gold with black, blue, white and green, 50mm.



**Logistics Officers Association, Northern Lights Chapter / Alaska's Premier Logistics Loaders.** Bronze with photo of caribou and northern lights, 64mm by 60mm.



**3 AMX AGE, Heavies, Raptors, Support/Maintain / No Air Power Without Ground Power.** Silver with blue, black and yellow, 45mm.



**Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson Fire Department.** Fire Emergency Services. Gold, multicolored, 48mm by 57mm.



**3d Munitions Squadron, Compliant, Lethal, Ready / Big Guns, Nice Racks, IYAAYAS, XXVII, VII, MMXI.** Gold with multicolor, 38mm.



**477 AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, You Buy / Never Let 'em see you comin', Mors Furtim.** Gold with red, yellow, blue and black, 50mm.



**525, (Arabic writing) / 1st AOR PMP, Combat Mission, Combat Intercept.** Silver with multicolor, predominantly tan, 53mm by 55mm.



**773d Civil Engineers Squadron, Strength to Sustain / Arctic Warrior Engineers, CE Loud...CE Proud.** Silver with multicolor, 66mm.



**90FS, Pair-o-Dice, Always a winner / 100 Years, 1917-2017.** Silver with red, black and white, 50mm.



**525 Bulldogs, / 525 AMU, is there a bulldog in the house, YBYSA,** 52mm by 48mm.



**USAF Civil Engineering, Prim Beef.** Gold with multicolor, reverse bronze, 38mm.



**962 AACS, Eagles / Eyes of the Eagle, 962 AACS.** Gold with multicolors, 58mm.



**First Sergeants Council, 11AF, 3WG, 176WG, 3811S 732AMS, 477FG, JBER Alaska.** Gold with blue enamel, 50mm



**90th Fighter Sq, Pair-O-Dice / Once a Dicemen Always a Dicemen, 1911-Present, pilot's call sign engraved.** Bronze, 38mm.



# SAFE FOUND IN DAWSON!

On August 4, while excavating for a new sewer lift station, at a depth of 8 meters, the contractors found an old safe! It was removed and taken to the Public Works Dept. for “safe” keeping.

The Northern Commercial Co. used to occupy the location where the safe was found. It is likely that it was bulldozed into a hole after a fire in 1951.



Plans were made to open the safe during Discovery Days. When the day arrived (August 18), a large crowd gathered to see what kind of treasure would be discovered.



The safe was pried open, revealing the contents: copper triangular trays for pouring gold into vials or pouches, a metal box, and coconut matting (used to catch fine gold in sluice boxes).

The dreams of the locals were dashed - there were no gold bars! No pokes of gold. Not even a nugget.



Not to be denied, the debris in the bottom of the safe was taken to the river, and panned by Grant Allan. He recovered about ½ gram of gold, and feels there is more if the safe were thoroughly cleaned.



Mayor Wayne Pororoka is shown holding a vial of gold which appears to have about 1/2 ounce. So, photos do lie!

## EVACUATION AT LOWER POST, BC

Forest fires have caused the evacuation of the residents of Lower Post, British Columbia to Watson Lake, Yukon. Some homes have been burned. Lower Post was previously known as Liard Post. This fire has caused closures of the Alaska Highway.

Elsewhere, homes were also lost to fire at Telegraph Creek, BC.



## TAKU GLACIER TRAY REVISTED



Submitted by Doug Williams, this tray is an “original” as opposed to the one shown in the June issue which was made in Japan. While the front may be indistinguishable, the difference on the back is obvious. The original is impressed with a positive die to push the metal into the negative die, leaving the back with the design recessed. My guess is that the “Made in Japan” version is a cast copy.





## DIES & TRAYS

I have a three other dies that were not mentioned in the June issue. They are rectangular and are not for making ashtrays. However, they are designed to impress thin metal, that can be applied to a tray or other object. One is "Cordova, Alaska." Another is "Mt. McKinley, McKinley Nat'l Park, Alaska." And the last is "Juneau the Capital of Alaska." It is this latter die for which we have seen a pressing.

It appears on a copper-colored tray, 5 3/4 inches by 7 inches. The impression is 64mm by 45mm.

The tray was sold on eBay by Dunnerk and realized \$29.10. Sadly, I was the underbidder.

All are shown actual size except the tray below.



Cordova die pressed in foil



Mt. McKinley die pressed in foil.



# THANE ROCK DUMP



Earlier this year I purchased some gold from Juneau that was suction dredged from the tailing piles of the Alaska Gastineau Mine, in Gastineau Channel. This is described by the United States Geological Survey: "This deposit consists of processed, mill tailings and hand sorted, rejected waste rock from the Sheep Creek Mill and the Perseverance and Alaska-Juneau mines. The tailings have been mined intermittently since 1940 and have produced more than 1,105 ounces of gold and 273 ounces of silver. There is an estimated resource of 4 million tons of tailings of unknown grade." Pretty cool!

Come to find out there are at least two miners doing this. The second miner saw my 1 DWT token and thought it was neat. He wanted some thing more substantial.

Steve Murinko contacted me and asked if I could make him a couple of ½ oz. gold tokens. I said that I could, but he needed to tell me what he wanted on each side. I also gave him my usual disclaimer - I have no artistic ability. He could not have unrealistic expectations. He sent sketches. From those ideas, I designed the token, but there was a "hole" in the center. Since I have no artistic talent whatsoever, this required some thinking.



Previously I had pressed a ¼ oz. gold token into an old Fairbanks Coin Club die, using only the gold panner portion. The relief is quite low, and I did not get a good impression, probably because the blank was too thin. I thought I would try this die again, but how do I retain that impression, while pressing in the legend around the rim?



The lettering for the Thane Rock Dump side was punched

into the die steel. Then, not knowing what the result would be, I ground out the center portion of the die, creating a crater. The die face looks sort of like a Life Saver candy, with the hole in the center.

With both dies prepared, I proceeded to press the tokens.

The first step was to place the blank on the FCC die over the gold panner. The blank is pressed into the FCC die two to three times in rapid succession, using the "Native Gold" die. I check it to be sure it is still seated properly between each pressing.

The blank is removed and annealed (heated to soften the metal). The next pressing uses the "Native Gold" die and the Thane Rock Dump die. With the depression in the center, the only part of the die making contact with the planchet is the lettering around the rim, concentrating the pressure. This obliterates most of the background detail from the FCC die.

Positioning was important, and several attempts placed the miner too high or too low. I had to find the "goldilocks" zone to get the miner centered. But even with the most careful of positioning, each token is a little different.



The center on the reverse is now depressed by the metal movement on the obverse.

This was a very interesting project. I am quite pleased with the results.



While we cannot offer any struck in gold, we can offer approximately 1/3 oz. silver trial strikes counterstamped with a small "AG". Note that when annealing, the silver loses its shine. When pressing the shine comes back. Because the center is not pressed in the last pressing, it retains a frosty appearance. These are available for \$25 post-paid.



# ARC OCT. 20 AUCTION FOR THE RECORD

Lot	Price Realized
258 1989 Alaska medals	110
259 1990 Alaska medals	65
260 1991 Alaska medals	110
261 1993 1/10 gold AK medal	230
262 2001 AK medal proof set	135
263 Vitus Bering medal	60mb*
264 Yukon Quest medals	90
265 AK Railroad medals	70mb*
266 2012 Iditarod medal	55
267 Largest Alaska medal?	50mb*
268 Red Dog Mine medal	65mb*
269 AK NW Gas Pipeline buckle	30
270 AK Silver Anniv. buckles	50
271 TVSA belt buckles	35
272 Jack London Medals	230mb*
273 Unusual AK items	90mb*
274 Antique jewelry, J.L. Sale	800mb*
275 FDNM newspapers	85mb*
276 USGS report	20
277 USGS reports	20
278 USGS reports	20

mb = sold to a mail bidder \* = reduced bid  
Total savings by bid reductions - \$868

## NEW GOLD TOKEN



While I can't sell you a gold version of the Thane Rock Dump, I can offer a 1/10 ounce gold token from Omega Creek. The Omega miner wanted something larger than the 1 DWT I made for him.

These are about 17mm and use the 1/10 oz. - 2 DWT die from our \$200 trade token from years ago. These are priced at \$145 postpaid.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL

For back issues:

**ATC&PN**, Vol. I to Vol. XXX

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/523362>

**Alaskan Znachki Bulletin**, all issues

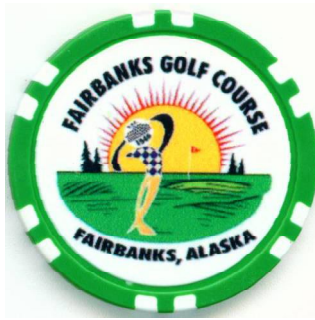
<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>

**Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds**, all issues

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524689>



**(FAIRBANKS):** Fly Trampoline Park. Formerly Teamsters Mall and The Alaska Club. For use in their video arcade. Brass, 25mm.



**FAIRBANKS:** Fairbanks Golf Course, gall marker, green and white chip with multi-color center, 40mm (submitted by Wil Courtney).



**FORT WAINWRIGHT:** Chena Bend Golf Course, ball marker, blue and white chip with multi-color center, 40mm (submitted by Wil Courtney).



**ALASKA:** Alaska Pump & Supply, Inc. Bronze, 39mm. An Evergreen Mint product.

# CALL THE DOCTOR!!!

Got a rare coin (or token) with a hole? Who ya gonna call? **COIN DOCTORS!** Frequently in major auctions rare coins will be described as “holed, repaired.” This is done for esthetic reasons. After all, who wants a coin with a hole? It improves the appearance of a rare coin. Many times it also improves the value. And so long as it is sold as such, no problem.



We originally reported this token in the July 2004 issue. It sold for \$1,600. Using the sellers description, we reported it as 33mm. We believe this size was in error. It is actually 30mm, pretty standard for a token of this shape.



Just recently it reappeared on eBay without the hole! Price realized was \$2,950. A nice increase over the selling price of 14 years ago. And all OK had it been described as repaired. Readers can guess who!

Note that the hole on the obverse of the first illustration and the shape of the discoloration on the second are significantly similar. There is a line from the beads, passing next to the C. It appears an edge ding on the scallop at about 1:00 reverse has been toned down. There is a mark from the center of the bottom bow curving up and left. There are other tell-tale signs that this is the same token.



# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

ALASKA RARE COINS, P.O. BOX 72832, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707 Phone 907 452-6461 email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com

& POLAR NUMISMATIST

VOLUME XL, NO. 10, DECEMBER, 2018.

See page 97

BUFFET

## KEEWALIK/CANDLE

*From "Skipper of the Corwin" by Ellsworth L. West, as told to Eleanor Ransom Mayhew, from Alaska Sportsman, August 1949.*

"The S.S. Corwin, of which I was skipper and part owner, had been a revenue cutter, condemned because she was now considered too small for Government service. She had been bought by a company called the Corwin Trading Company, which I had organized in the spring of 1900 with several Boston business men to develop some of the coal fields north of Cape Lisburne.



"Keewalik, at the head of Kotezbue Sound, was the last important town going north. It was built on a spit at the mouth of the Keewalik River, and was the port for Candle City and the Candle gold mines and soft coal field. The settlement was made up of mostly Eskimos. There were a couple of so-called hotels, several saloons and quite a few warehouses, one belonging to us (ed. note: Corwin Trading Co.). Candle City, however, was quite the place. It had stores, fairly good hotels and some handsome dwellings.

"Freight and passengers went up by river from Keewalik on a small scow called the *Keewalik Flyer*. She was rigged with a sternwheel operated by a rope attached to a stationary Fairbanks engine set amidships, an arrangement that would let her proceed in heavy dew, a good thing as the river wasn't more than nine inches deep in places."

\* \* \* \* \*

The token shown above is listed in Benice as Candle B-3a. Keewalik was a distinct, separate location from Candle as shown in the article above.

A google search finds many listings for "Keewalik Hotel," only one giving a location. A listing of photos by Albert B. Kinne has "Keewalik Hotel (Council City)". All of his other photos are in the general vicinity, and none on the north coast of the Seward Peninsula. Other photos (like the one above from the Alaska Sportsman) have miners leaving Keewalik for the Kobuk gold fields.

There is no sign of "Keewalik Bar" in a google search, other than references to this token.

Continued on page 93

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to our largest issue ever! Ten pages of information, eight pages of items for sale and a two page index for 2019. This month thanks go to Ron Benice, Dave Phillips, Gary Oddie, Andrew Anderson and Terry Hess.

As is usual at this time of year, subscriptions are due. I will be mailing subscription blanks to all subscribers, including those who receive this by email. Please use the subscription blank so I can have a paper record of your subscription in case Kim Un Dingbat hits us with an electromagnetic pulse weapon and wipes out all computers ;)

Our thanks for the year of 2018 go to the following in the order of their appearance.

Jacques Echeverry	Ronald Greene
David Phillips	J.D. Williams
Ron Benice	Wil Courtney
Joe Usibelli	Andrew Anderson
Jared Hatch	Gary Oddie
J.W. Terrill	Terry Hess
John Kallman	Bruce Grossmann

Without these folks, this would have been a much less interesting newsletter.

I am working on a prices realized list to go from 1999 to 2018 and a 40 year index. Both of these will be available, and will be included in the 4th 10 year bound volume. The bound volume is nearly completely printed, and will be sent to the binder as soon as possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist**, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

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## PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Anchorage</b> , Cheechako Club, 12½¢, B-11bIV	20.50
<b>Bethel</b> , Olsen Bros., set of 3, B-3	2.32
<b>Cooper Landing</b> , RR Ferry, one trip, B-T1c	11.39
<b>Eek</b> , Gil McIntyre, 50¢, B-1b	55.00OB
<b>Ft. Davis</b> , Post Ex., 5¢, B-1a	2,650.00
<b>Goodnews Bay</b> , Joe Jean, 50¢, B-1b	51.00
<b>Haines</b> , small replica tinnah	40.63
<b>Juneau</b> , Louvre, Lemp's Beer, 5¢, B-43b	515.00
<b>Juneau</b> , S in diamond, 6¼¢, B-64a	148.91
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Hop Wo, 10¢, B-17a	60.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lange's, 10¢, B-29a	15.00OB
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Pioneer T&M, \$1, B-46c	21.61
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Stedman Hotel, 12½¢, B-60aI	15.00OB
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich, \$5, B-1f	325.00OB
<b>McCarthy</b> , Johnson Hotel, 12½¢, B-4a	40.00OB
<b>McCarthy</b> , Gustave Priesner, 5¢, B-5aI	137.81
<b>Nenana</b> , Lescure, 50¢, B-4 unlisted	318.00
<b>Nenana</b> , Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3aII	25.00OB
<b>Nome</b> , Far North Tran., one fare, B-T1a	77.00
<b>Petersburg</b> , OK's Place, 10¢, B-7b	20.00OB
<b>Quinhagak</b> , Pauline Jean, \$5, B-1d	67.00
<b>Seward</b> , Seward Bar, 12½¢, B-14a	35.00OB
<b>Shemya</b> , NCO OM, \$1, B-2kII	11.00
<b>Sitka</b> , A.B. Club, 5¢, B-1b	1,005.00
<b>Skagway</b> , McCreedy & Elliot, set of 7, B-16	310.51
<b>Skagway</b> , Pullen House, one meal, B-22as	5.00OB
<b>Tanana</b> , Timothy's Place, 25¢, B-10a	234.82
<b>Tenakee</b> , Tillicum Club, 12½¢, B-5b	225.00OB
<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Block Buffet, 12½¢, B-4a	35.00OB
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, round	45.02
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, potty	82.01
<b>AYPE</b> , encased cent, potty	16.50
<b>ARRC</b> 1985 commemorative set	57.00
<b>Tierra del Fuego</b> , Popper replica token type II	380.00*

\* made by the Museo del Fin del Mundo, Ushuaia, Argentina.

OB = Opening Bid; NB = No Bid; RL = relist; R = Reserve; RNM = Reserve Not Met; W = withdrawn BIN = Buy it now; BOA = Best Offer Accepted; DNS = Did Not Sell; FTR = see For the Record.

## NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL

For back issues:

**ATC&PN**, Vol. I to Vol. XXX  
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**Alaskan Znachki Bulletin**, all issues  
<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524076>  
**Alaska & Yukon Stocks and Bonds**, all issues  
<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/524689>



## KEEWALIK/CANDLE, CONT.

There probably were a multitude of Sourdough Roadhouses. The most famous was on the Richardson Highway, dating back to about 1904, and burned in 1992.

There is a photo of a Sourdough Roadhouse (below), "Shel Wattach's roadhouse on Dexter Creek, 7 miles from Nome." This would put it much closer to Council than to Keewalik/Candle.

As with most mavericks, we are left with a dilemma. The attribution to Keewalik/Candle and a location "north of Nome" as suggested by Ron Benice is difficult to comprehend.

Likewise, an attribution to Council and a Roadhouse 7 miles from Nome is only a little less so.

These two businesses had to be related in some way. While the distances between them do not prohibit such a connection, it seems to be a great hindrance.

The logical assumption is that these two businesses were in close proximity so that the token could be

used at either business, but...

As an example, meals on the Valdez Transportation Co. route from Valdez ranged from 75¢ to \$1.50. So it is likely that the meal side was worth about \$1. The bar side was only 25¢. So this makes it even more difficult to comprehend.

There are just too many things wrong here.

So where is this token from? For the time being, Candle seems to be as good a place as any until the unlikely time that we can say no, it should be ...



**CANDLE:** Keewalik Bar/Sourdough Roadhouse, B-1a, obverse faded. **\$100.00ppd**



# THE TIME MACHINE

At the Token Congress this year in Northampton, England, I gave a presentation on John Zaccarelli of Dawson. In that presentation, I also showed other tokens from Dawson. One, while not a trade token, was a round metal disc of some interest.

This disc is from The A(laska) E(xploration) Co. They were one of the largest merchants in Dawson, competing with the North American Transportation and Trading Co. and the Northern Commercial Co. It is stamped “Time Check.”

In my presentation, I asked how this would be used. It seemed obvious to me that it would be used as a time check for employees to record the hours worked, or at least when they arrived at work. As the hole would indicate, I thought it would be awkward to hang a whole bunch of checks on a hook for employees arriving at the same time. So what were other alternatives to hanging it on a hook, which sadly is probably what was done, but not as interesting as an alternative proposed.

In less than 24 hours, Andrew Andison had put together a power point presentation on time clocks and time check tokens which I found fascinating.



The website [www.workclocks.co.uk](http://www.workclocks.co.uk) has many time keeping devices for monitoring the hours of employees. The one that Andrew focused on was by the Llewellyn's Machine Company Ltd. This machine uses ID tokens (chits, checks, whatever term you prefer) to be inserted into the machine. A revolving shoot then drops the tokens into a round receptacle, allowing for management to determine when each employee “clocked” in. The face of the machine has five slots so that workers are not waiting in line to clock in, and perhaps be recorded as late as the time clicks by. At the right are the internal workings, with a shoot that rotates, controlled by the clock. Below is a close-up of the shoot that would drop the token into the appropriately timed receptacle in that tray.



Surely this is an expensive machine. One would think that it would be cheaper to have another employee sitting at a desk recording who arrived when. With this time clock, an employee has to collect and record which time slot the tokens are in along with the employee number. This sounds just as labor intensive.

In any case, it is asking too much to think that the Alaska Exploration Co. used a time clock like this. What I find even more interesting is they had a time check token numbered as high as 222!





## A. GIBBS & SONS - POLE TO POLE, ALMOST

While A. Gibbs & Sons has been known to me for many years because of tokens issued for Ost Grønland (East Greenland), it was not until the recent Token Congress and a presentation by Gary Oddie that I learned the global scope of the Gibbs empire.



Denmark granted Gibbs exclusive rights to trade with east Greenland. Two attempts were made to reach the east coast of Greenland, both unsuccessful. Gibbs attempt to set up a trading post in East Greenland was one of the few failures. The tokens were never used for their intended purpose.

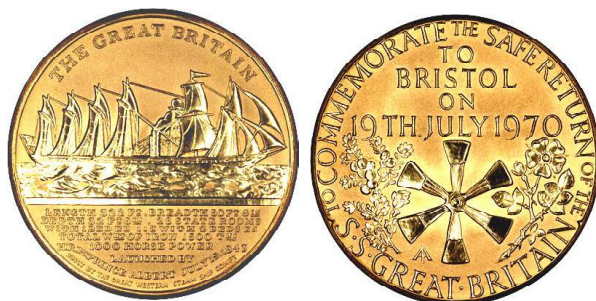
Antony Gibbs' companies of various names and permutations traded in cloth and wine, banking and insurance, transportation, and the money maker - guano and nitrates. The map below, provided by Gary Oddie shows the global reach of Gibbs' companies. While the map shows routes for slaves, I cannot say that Gibbs was involved in that trade.

In 1841, the firm signed contracts with the Peruvian and Bolivian governments to mine guano, used for fertilizer. Slave-like conditions in the guano pits resulted in a nearly 100% fatality rate for indentured Chinese labor. Nearly all men on Easter Island were taken to the guano pits with the resultant devastation of the Polynesian population of that island. In 1847, Peru granted the firm a monopoly to the firm for trade with Europe and North America. William Gibbs (son) was in charge of South American operations. A little ditty, popular at the time was "William Gibbs made his dibbs, selling turds of foreign birds." He was reported to be the richest non-noble man in England.



Tokens were used by Gibbs in their saltpeter (nitrate) mine at Calacala, Tarapaca, Chile. Nitrate was used in fertilizer, but also explosives (think fertilizer bomb).

Photo of Calacala token courtesy of Terry Hess.

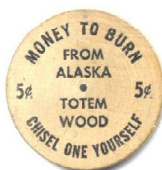


Gibbs purchased the SS Great Britain after she ran aground and totally refitted her to carry passengers from England to Australia. In 1882 she was refitted as a bulk coal carrier. In 1886 she caught fire and upon arrival at Port Stanley she was found to be beyond repair. She was sold to the Falkland Islands Company and used as a floating coal bunker. She was scuttled and sunk in 1937. In 1970 she was refloated and towed back to Bristol, England.

All of Gibbs various businesses - shipping, trading, insurance, banking - were sold, merged, acquired, etc. by 1981 and the firm then ceased to exist.

# MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips



## HOT LICKS ICE CREAM WOODS

The Hot Licks Ice Cream Co. started in business in Fairbanks in 1986. At that time Hot Licks offered home made soups, breads, buns homemade ice cream, coffee, etc.

One of the three original owners, Adam Wool (brother and brother-in-law to the current owners, Geoffrey and Dorothee Wool) was a drummer in a 3 piece jazz band - the Hot Licks Jazz Band. The band played jazz standards for the restaurant from 1986 to the mid 1990s, and Hot Licks became the name of the company. All the woods feature a drummer, a tribute to one of the original owners.

In 1997, the owners decided to discontinue the soups, sandwiches, baked goods and concentrate on ice cream products.

They built a 20' by 20' Ice Cream shop, with walk-up window service and an adjacent 20' by 20' covered pavilion with picnic tables. The business ran year round at that time.



In 2011, for its 25th anniversary, the Company purchased 5,000 wood tokens, in three values. Most over time were given away to non-profit organizations and some were sold to "for profit" companies to give away.

In 2015, 1,400 more woods were purchased, in two values, for give-aways as above. The One Dollar is about



1.5mm larger than the Single Scoop. At this time, the business reduced its business hours to Summer only; May to August.



Again in 2011, a further 1,000 woods were purchased for distribution, all the same value.

All woods are dark blue printing on both sides.

Ed. Note: Their malted grapenut is the best, although local blueberry ain't bad either!

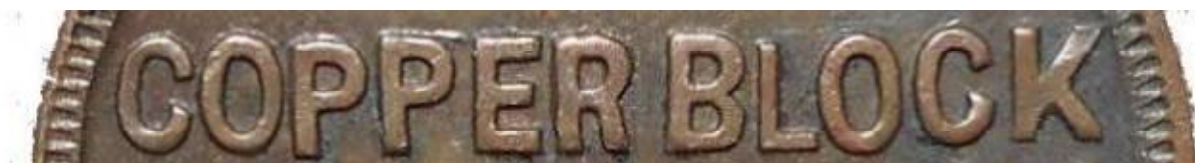




## VALDEZ COPPER BLOCK BUFFET DIE VARIETY



When I was compiling prices realized, I had to look to see if this was 4a or 4b. I looked at the token, and the “K” in BLOCK looked odd. Also, the lettering was very flat, like a table top. This seemed odd. In comparing this token to one in stock, it looked more and more like a different die. As you can see from the photos below, the letter placement is a bit different for each token.



In “Copper Block,” the letter placement is just a bit different. Also, the top shows a mis-stamped letter at the top of the second “P” while the bottom shows a mis-placed letter under the “R”. On my first pick-up point, the crotch on the “K” on the top is short, while it is high on the bottom example.



In “Buffet,” the letter placement is also different. Note the position of “FF”. One is low, the other is high.



Finally, compare the letter placement of “CHE” of “Check”.

There are other differences, but I think this is enough.

There are no readily apparent differences in the obverse die.

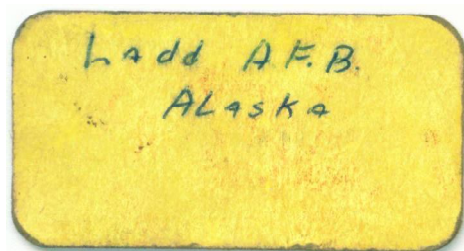
Is this worthy of a separate entry in the Benice catalogue? I don’t think so. But it deserves a note “die varieties exist.”





## PAPER POTPOURRI: LADD A.F.B.

This is an interesting assortment of paper items from an old Fairbanks collection. Most state Ladd Air Force Base. The Civilian Club bottle deposit is unlike those listed, but hand written on back "Ladd A.F.B. Alaska." Because of the provenance and the statement "Base Recreation Fund," we believe the Pool Card is also from Ladd A.F.B. We have no idea what the "Supply Center" card is for. All shown actual size.



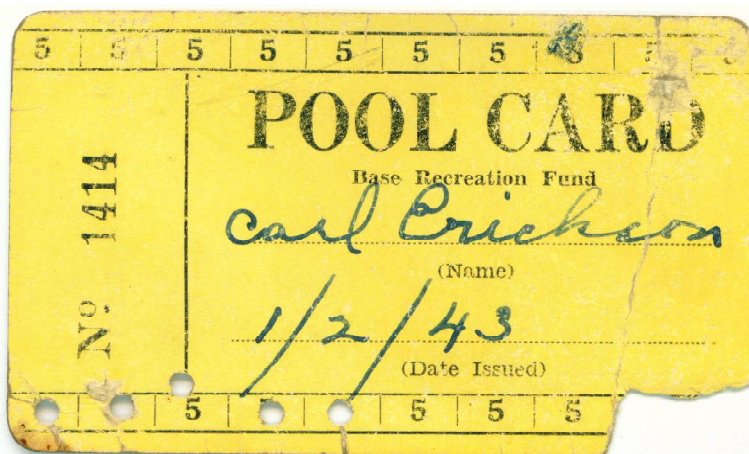
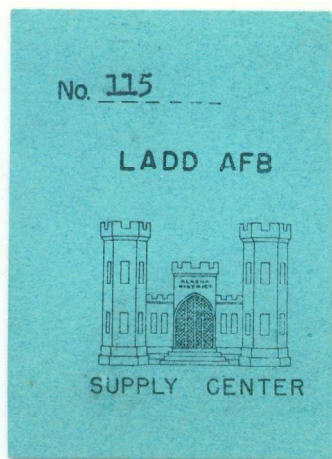
**Bottle Deposit:** 59mm by 31mm, black on yellow.

**1950 Raffle ticket:** 93mm by 62mm, black on yellow.

**1957 Raffle ticket:** 110mm by 57mm, black on blue.

**Supply Center:** 42mm by 59mm, blue on black.

**Pool Card:** 97mm by 59mm, black on yellow.





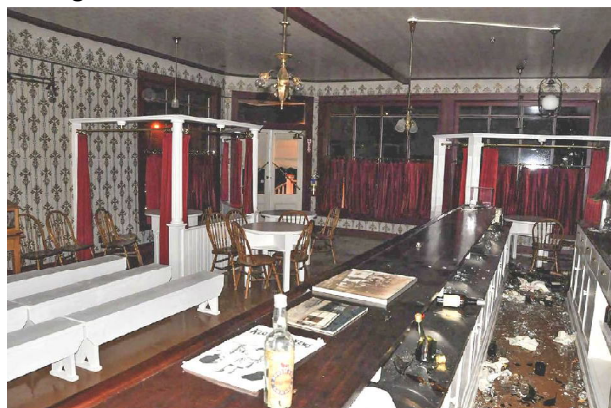
# RED FEATHER SALOON NEW GOLD TOKEN!!!

## DAMAGED IN BREAK-IN (DAWSON)

from the Yukon News



More than 100 objects, including 31 originals, were destroyed or damaged in an Oct. 21 break-in. The total cost of the damage is estimated at more than \$10,000. According to Parks Canada spokesperson Kathy Burden, damaged and destroyed items included “bottles, flutes, decanters and a variety of glasses,” with 27 historic or original objects destroyed and four damaged.



The Red Feather Saloon was built in the summer of 1902 and closed in 1915. While it lay derelict for years, it was refurbished by Parks Canada.

The current Red Feather Saloon is a recreation of the original post-gold-rush era watering hole. It is owned by Parks Canada and used for interpretive programs it runs in Dawson.

The interior of the saloon is elaborately decorated in period style, featuring a “stocked bar,” several tables, benches and hundreds of smaller items. Many of these items were damaged or destroyed in the break-in.

Parks Canada plans to refurbish the Red Feather for the 2019 tourist season. Security upgrades are also planned.



**Kawalita Prospect, Cleary, Fairbanks.** This is a hardrock mine adjacent to the Christina Prospect. Current mintage is 46, but we expect to make more for this miner. **\$85**

## FRENCH FURRIER MEDAL



**Chambre Syndicale Fourreurs et Pelletiers Français**

Simply put, Union of French Furriers.

This is a really nice bronze medal, 63mm by 50mm by Raoul Lamouredieu. It features an Arctic scene with polar bear, fox and a weasel type animal.



This example was presented to Gisele Simon 1934. We have seen another medal presented to another person dated 1931.



## FOR THE RECORD



**DELTA JCT.:** Delta Petro Wash car wash tokens: The Works (\$20); Deluxe (\$18) and "2" (vacuum). All brass, 25mm (submitted by Bruce Grossmann).



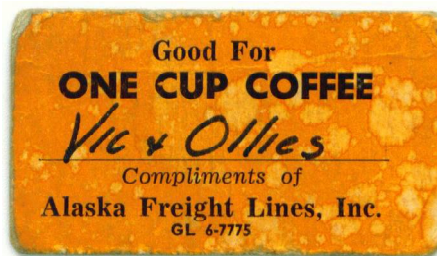
**McCARTHY:** McCarthy Hotel, 25¢ in trade. Aluminum, 24mm (submitted by Ron Benice).



**NENANA:** Paul Lescure & Co., 50¢ in trade, B-4, unlisted denomination. Aluminum, 30mm (submitted by Ron Benice).

Tokens in the right column from the J. Stanley Robertson collection. Sadly, he did not have an Imperial Cigar Store token to go with this tag.

## NOT ILLUSTRATED



**FAIRBANKS:** Alaska Freight Lines, Inc., one cup coffee, B-2a. Good at Vic & Ollies.



**FAIRBANKS:** Home Bakery, 12½¢, B-25a.



**FAIRBANKS:** McDonald's Grocery, 1 loaf, B-31a.



**FAIRBANKS:** Mrs. Preiss' Bakery, 1 loaf of bread, B-47a

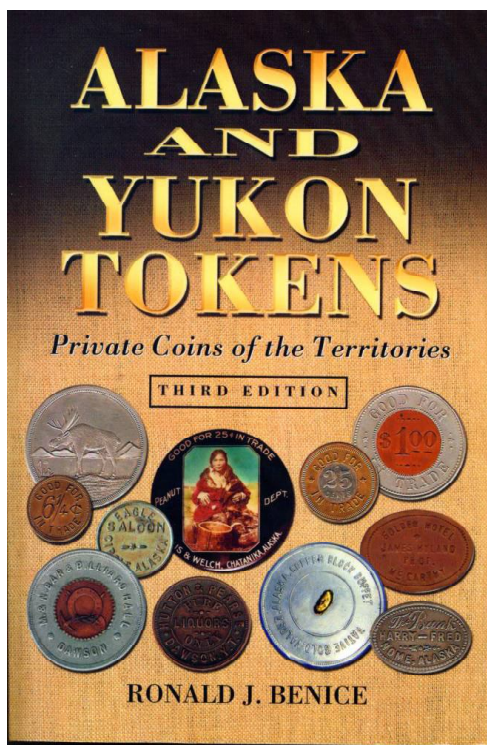


**FAIRBANKS:** Rose Cigar Co., 1 Cigar, B-50a

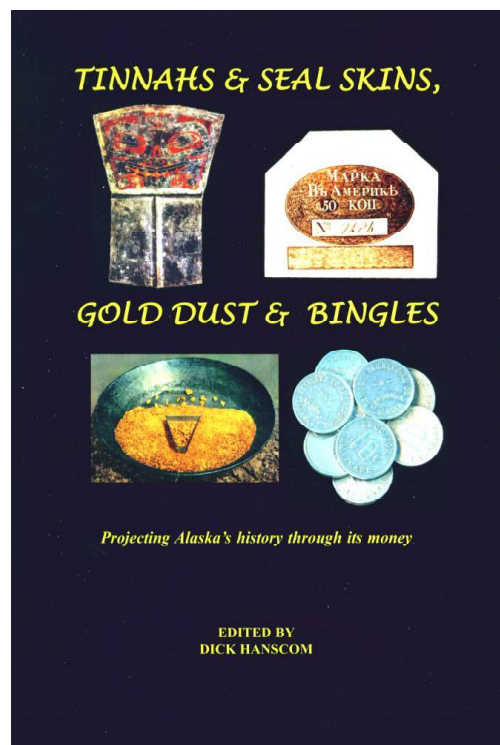




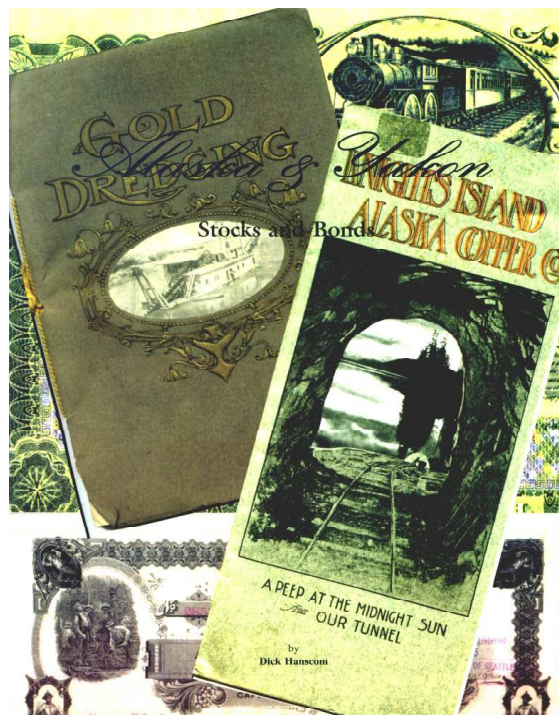
## BOOKS FOR THE COLLECTOR



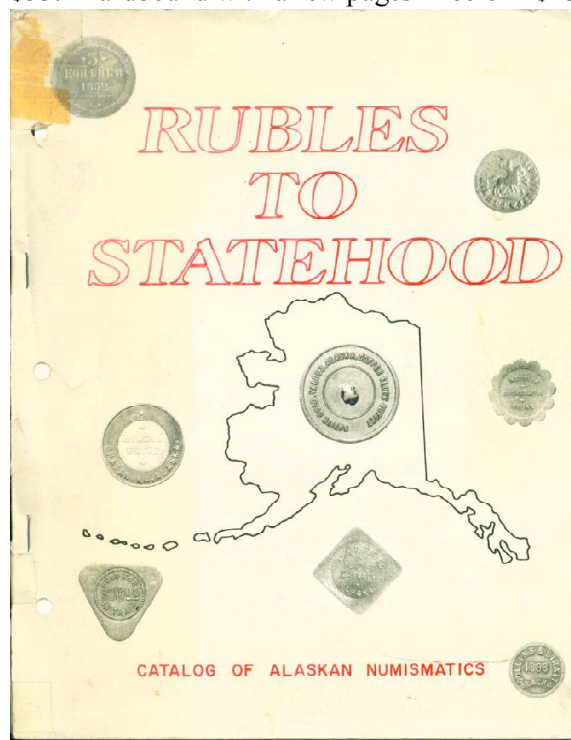
**ALASKA AND YUKON TOKENS: Private coins of the Territories**, by Ronald J. Benice. 364 pages, 9x6 inches. \$43.



**TINNAHS & SEAL SKINS, GOLD DUST & BINGLES: Projecting Alaska's history through its money**, by Dick Hanscom. 396 pages, 9x6 inches. \$33. Hardbound with a few pages in color - \$75.



**ALASKA & YUKON STOCKS AND BONDS**, by Dick Hanscom. 344 pages, 8½x11 inches. \$20.



**RUBLES TO STATEHOOD**, by Fernald & McDowell, 1965. We have 4 used copies. Expect some markings. 134 pages, 8½ by 11. A scarce book. **SPECIAL PRICE - \$25.00**

Prices are postpaid via priority mail.



# ODD BITS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Leave these pages laying around as a hint. "Oh dear, I would like these for ...."*



**NORTH POLE: Santa Claus House "Dollars."** First issued in 1963 as a trade dollar, 1964/65, 1966 and 1967 are "souvenir" dollars. Each year features Santa Claus and a Christmas scene, except for the 1967 dollar which commemorates the Alaska Purchase Centennial. Struck in sterling silver and brass, we are offering the four year set of eight medals. Only one set available. **\$110.00**  
Single brass medals available for 1964/65, 1966 and 1967 **\$5.00 each**



**FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS-MINER** 1 oz. silver. Only 1 each.  
**\$28.00 each**



**HOLIDAY WISHES, SEASONS GREETINGS.** 1 oz. silver. Only 1 each.  
**\$25.00 each.**

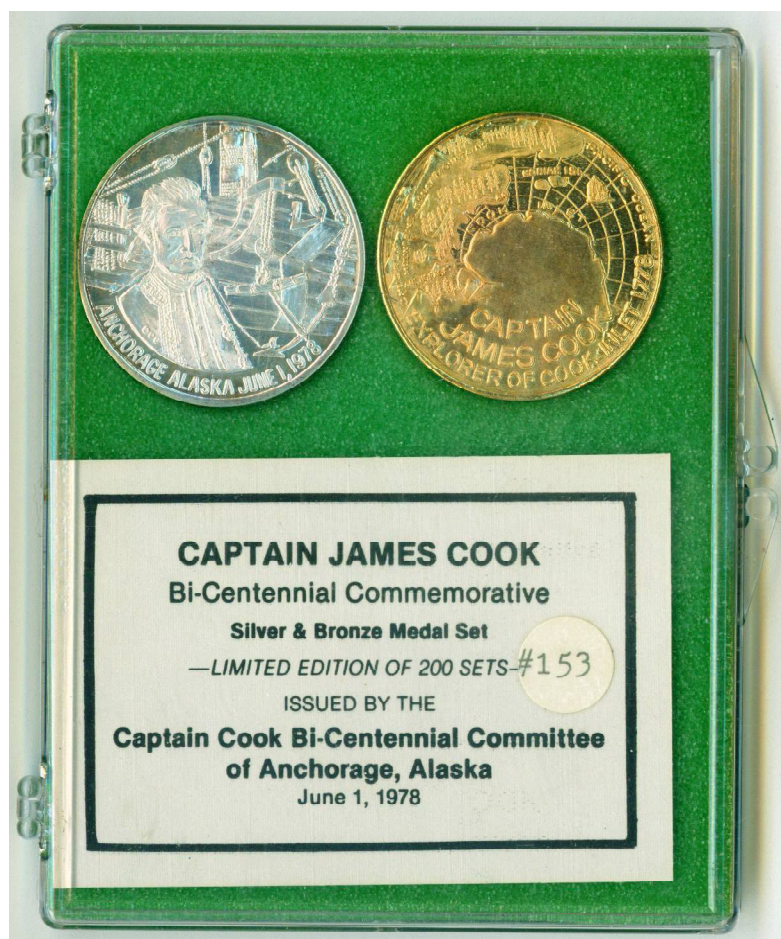


# LARGE, CAST, OCTAGONAL BRONZE MEDALS!!

*Including what is probably the hardest-to-find Alaska Pipeline medal!!!*



We don't see these around very often. These were made about 1980 in set of four featuring salmon, bald eagle, dall sheep and ... Prudhoe Bay (depicted on the obverse as an oil platform...really?). Despite the incongruities of this set, it is surprisingly scarce as it appears they made 2,500 of the proposed 5,000 sets! These appear to be cast and are housed in a custom wood display case. This is probably the Alaska Pipeline medal missing from your collection, but you have to buy the other three to get it. Piece in the center is actual size. Only three sets available. **\$99.00**



## CAPTAIN JAMES COOK BI-CENTENNIAL

Silver (edge marked .Silver and serial number) and bronze set issued in 1978 in the original snap lock case with foam backing. Note that the foam may stick to the medals. The silver medal weighs .76 troy ounces (.999? .925?). Only three sets available. **\$25.00**

## FREE\*



\*With any \$25 purchase. This is not automatic. You must ask for it. Don't expect me to remember!



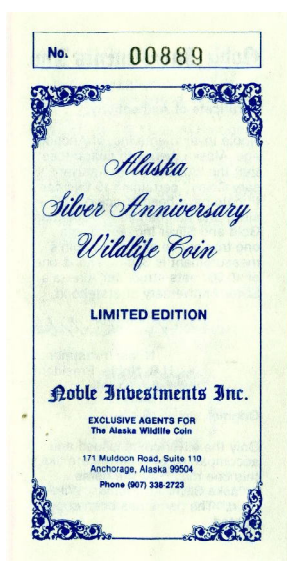
# NOBEL INVESTMENTS / LEONARD SAVAGE MEDALS

This was one of the odder items issued for the 25th anniversary of Statehood in 1984. These were sold only in two medal sets - both the same medal. If memory is correct, the issue price was \$100. Limited to 10,000 sets (20,000 medals), Nobel Investments was overly optimistic.

The reverse animal design was done by Leonard Savage. We have many of Leonard's walrus ivory carvings in stock, from moose, bears and wolves to wooly mammoths and dog teams and more.



(2) medals with original case - \$60.00 postpaid



## Noble Investments Inc.

### Certificate of Authenticity

Noble Investments Inc. of Anchorage, Alaska, herewith guarantees that the "Alaska Silver Anniversary Coins" pertaining to this certificate have been struck of .999+ silver and hallmarked by American Gold and Silver Inc. and weigh one troy ounce each. The coin's measurement is 38mm, and is one of 10,000 sets struck for Alaska's Silver Anniversary of statehood.

*H. R. Noble*

Noble Investments  
H.R. Noble, President

### Original

Only the silver coins issued and accompanied by a certificate like this one may bear the name "Alaska Silver Anniversary Wildlife Coin." The name has been copyrighted.

### Issue and Design

In commemoration of Alaska's 25th year of statehood, Noble Investments Inc. has commissioned Alaskan Native Leonard Savage, an Athabascan Indian ivory carver, to create the beautiful artwork for this Limited Edition Silver Anniversary Wildlife Coin Set. Only 10,000 sets will be made and bear the serial number shown on this certificate.

### Hallmarks

Each coin bears the American Gold and Silver Co. Hallmark ...



... which guarantees the complete purity .999+ silver content and weight of one troy ounce each.

### Leonard Savage

Commissioned by Noble Investments Inc. to create the design for the Alaska Silver Anniversary Wildlife Coin, Leonard Savage, an Athabascan Indian, is one of Alaska's finest wildlife artists. Many of Leonard's ink drawings and wildlife ivory carvings are prized acquisitions of Alaskan collectors.

Born 200 miles south of Holy Cross, Alaska at Summer Fish Camp, Leonard has had a lifetime love of wildlife and art. He began sketching at the early age of four.

The wildlife composite artwork depicted on the Silver Anniversary Coin is one of the most expressive of his life-like style, and has been selected by Noble Investments Inc. as its representative selection for Alaska's 25th year as a sovereign state of the United States of America.

## LEONARD SAVAGE IVORY CARVINGS - CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION



\$204-\$365



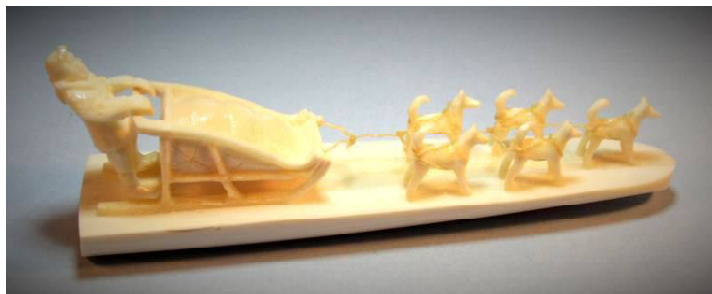
\$190-\$220



\$110



\$90



NOT SHOWN ACTUAL SIZE

\$300



## WRANGELL SESQUICENTENNIAL



Established as Redoubt St. Dionysius by Lt. Zarembo of the Russian American Co. in 1834, it was leased to the Hudson Bay Co. in 1840, and became American territory in 1867 with the purchase of Alaska, thus “150 years under three flags.” It was the “gateway” to three gold rushes: Stikine 1861, Cassiar 1872 and, briefly, Klondike 1898. A neat set of pure silver medals, ½ and 1 oz. in their original display case with description card. One set only, 1.5 oz. of silver.

**\$45.00**

## THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD

This is one of my favorite medals! About 1.07 troy ounces of silver, PLUS the gold in the pan. It is a bit odd as it does not commemorate any particular gold rush or date. Yukon 1896, Nome 1899 and Fairbanks 1902 are noted beneath the gold panner. The reverse carries the legend “1867 Alaska 1972, Built on the Quest for Gold” surrounding a gold dredge. We believe the date of issue was 1972, and that it was issued by a coin club at Clear AFS, just south of Nenana. We were

offered a quantity of these years ago but there were so many, we disappointed the seller (in the lower 48) by offering only silver value. I would guess that they were melted when silver hit the \$40 range. It seems every time we purchase a local collection, there are 1 or 2 of these present. Only 2 available.

Also available in copper, no nuggets in the pan.



**\$35.00**

**\$7.50**

## FT. KNOX MINE MEDALS



Surprisingly, we don't see many of these! The first is from 2006, commemorating their 10th year and 3 million ounce poured. A very nice gold relief, 1 oz. silver medal featuring a gold dredge (which they don't use!) and mountain scene on the reverse (which seems out of place). Despite my criticism, an attractive medal. Minted by the now defunct Northwest Territorial Mint.

**\$45.00**



The second medal offered (3rd issued) is from 2016 for their 20th anniversary and 7 million ounce poured. Because of the financial (and legal) difficulties at NWT mint, they had to switch mints. To say this was a disappointment compared to the previous two issues is an understatement. The design is plain and unimaginative. Both the gold version and this silver version are unmarked as to metal content. This 1 oz. silver is completely gold plated. It does test correctly for .999 silver. It will be mistaken for gold or brass by those who do not know. Disappointing and priced accordingly.

**\$30.00**

# PROMINENT VISITORS TO ALASKA



## HIROHITO, EMPEROR OF JAPAN

On September 26, 1971, Hirohito, the emperor of Japan arrived in Anchorage and was greeted by President Richard Nixon at Elmendorf A.F.B. It was a short visit, just a stop over, long enough to refuel, as the emperor was headed to London, Bonn and Paris.

Nixon remarked on the close ties that had developed between the U.S. and Japan since the end of World War II. In his welcoming comments, Nixon noted that Anchorage as approximately the same distance from Japan as it was from Washington.

Hirohito expressed Japan's gratitude to the U.S. for the assistance that had been provided since the end of the war.

The importance of Japan to Alaska's economy was mentioned in a briefing paper. At the time, Japan purchased 95% of Alaska's exports of minerals, wood and gas. Also noted was that some of Alaska's Aleutian Islands are closer to Japan than they are to Anchorage.

Medals were struck to celebrate the visit. The obverse features what looks to be a stylized, barren landscape, with the big dipper (inside the outline of a bear - Ursa Major) and northern lights above. The reverse is a stylized chrysanthemum, emblem of the Empire of Japan.

These are available in sterling silver and bronze sets. The sterling silver weighs 1.06 troy ounces, with an actual silver weight of .98 troy ounces.

The price is **\$45 postpaid**.

## PRESIDENT FORD VISITS PUMP STATION #8

On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford landed at Eielson A.F.B. 26 miles from Fairbanks, and visited Pump Station #8 of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

This medal was part of a 12 piece Trans-Alaska Pipeline set, all one ounce of .999 silver. Singly, the medal is avail-



## PRESIDENT REAGAN / POPE JOHN PAUL II

On May 2, 1984, President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II crossed paths in Fairbanks. Plans for the visits were laid out well ahead of time. Commercial booth space was made available. Vendors, of which I was one, arrived before 4AM to set up.

I was set up there selling my Pope and President 1 oz. silver medals. I had 2,700 (?) made for the event and was worried that it would not be enough. It is over 30 years ago now, but my memory tells me I sold maybe 40. Not the resounding success that I was anticipating.

The weather was miserable - cold, rainy, spitting snow. The anticipated crowd of 43,000 did not materialize. The New York Times reported the crowd was 5,000. And once they arrived, they found a place to sit on the apron and did not move. Which means very few visited the vendors, and even fewer bought anything.

The President's plane arrived at about 10AM, returning to the U.S. from China. The Pope's plane arrived a little while later, on his way to South Korea.

The obverse has overlapping busts of the President and the Pope. The reverse has our standard Denali reverse.

These medals are still available, 34 years after the fact, for **\$35.00 postpaid**.



able for **\$35 postpaid**. Complete sets of 12 medals are **\$360 postpaid**.



# NATIVE GOLD TOKENS

Below are previous issues still available. Only one available of many. All 1 DWT except where noted. Mintages are in ( ).



**Ketchum Creek**, 5 above, Circle Dist. (19) \$90  
**Christina Prospect I**, Fairbanks Dist. (49) \$85  
**Slate Creek**, bi-metal, Rampart Dist. (22) \$145



**Gold King Creek**, Bonnifield Dist. (20) \$85  
**Baker Creek**, Hot Springs Dist. (19) \$85  
**Big Creek**, Chandalar Dist. (20) \$85



**Sparkling Creek**, Yukon Terr. (18) \$100  
**Nugget Creek**, Fairbanks Dist. (18) \$85  
**Olive Creek**, Tolovana Dist. (18) \$85



**Eureka Creek**, Hot Springs Dist. (16) \$85  
**Linda Creek**, Koyukuk Dist. (18) \$85  
**Nolan Creek**, Koyukuk Dist. (18) \$85



**Omega Creek**, Hot Springs Dist. (36) \$85  
**American Creek**, Tofty, Hot Spr. Dist. (18) \$85  
**Deadwood Creek**, Circle Dist. (18) \$85  
**Mud Creek**, Fairhaven Dist. (18) \$85



**Eva Creek**, Fairbanks Dist. (19) \$85  
**Birch Creek**, Circle Dist. (19) \$85  
**Christina Prospect II**, Fairbanks Dist. (48) \$85

All prices are postpaid.



**Alaska Gastineau Mine**, Juneau (61) \$85  
**Omega Creek** 1/10 oz., Hot Spr. Dist. (20+) \$145

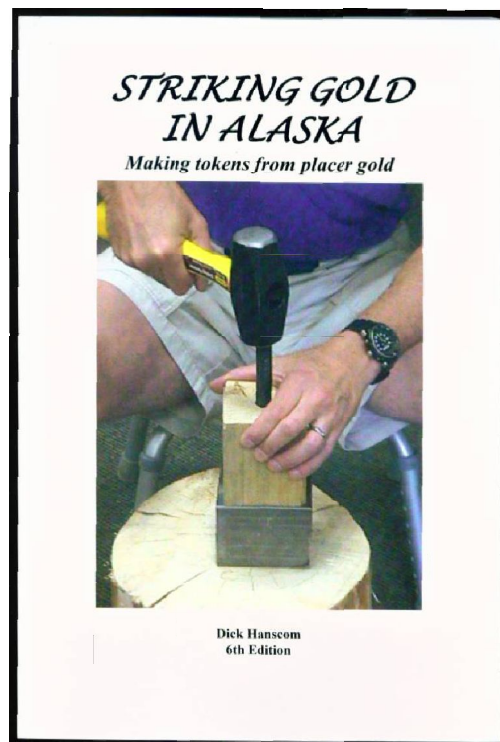


**Alaska Rare Coins \$200 trade token.** Only 2 left. This is a 1/10 oz., 2 DWT gold token, approximate fineness of .800 (estimated by specific gravity). Since it is good for \$200 in trade, we need to get \$200

## SILVER TRIAL STRIKES

These are still available for many of the 1 DWT tokens. Please ask for specific items. \$5.00 each

**I prefer to ship on approval, and you can pay upon receipt. Call or email to place an order.**



**STRIKING GOLD IN ALASKA: Making tokens from placer gold**, 2017, 6th edition, by Dick Hanscom. 221 pages, 9x6 inches. \$22.00

# SILVER TOKENS



**CHISANA 1 OZ. SILVER.** Struck from antique dies. The obverse is Lou Anderton, the reverse \$1.00. These weigh at least 1 oz. Multiple pressing required in our screw press. I will include the uniface ¼ oz. silver pressed from the 25¢ die at no charge. Only six sets available. If these do not sell by the first of the year, they go to the melting pot. **\$45.00**



**THANE ROCK DUMP.** Three dies and multiple pressings make this possible. It looks really cool in gold, but alas, I have no gold to sell. I do have approximately 1/3 oz. silver available, counterstamped with a small AG for silver. See last month's issue for full description. **\$25.00**



**Made for my Pilgrimage to Hanscombe End, 2018.** Silver 3<sup>d</sup> and Shilling. Very minor genealogical research into the family name.

3 Pence	<b>\$5.00</b>
Shilling	<b>\$10.00</b>



**Silver Drop Hammer trial, 1 oz. silver.** A test piece for our drop hammer. Only 5 left. If these do not sell by the first of the year, they go to the melting pot.

**\$25.00**



**DIE TRIALS FOR BERING SEA GOLD.** I pressed these years before I made my ¼, ½ and 1 oz. Bering Sea Gold tokens. I wanted to see how the dies looked. The two portrait dies are from R.J. Negus, listed under St. Michael in Benice *Alaska Tokens*, but possibly from Scammon Bay. The Rowdy die is from Valdez. Only one set left with a total of 1.5 ounces of silver. Like many items on this page, if they do not sell before the first of the year, they go in the melting pot. I don't normally discount because I don't feel it fair to earlier buyers, but I will make an exception in this case. Originally \$125. One time only, one set only - **\$75.00**

**Fairbanks Coin Club Annual tokens.** Very limited supply: 2010 \$5; 2013 \$10; 2015 \$10; 2016 to 2018 \$5 each.





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## VOLUME XL

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## VOLUME XL

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